

POSTERS: HAYDEN FOXE & MARK BABIC

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIA

SOCER



Euro 96 Champions Germany

Exclusive Stories Euro 96



Ericsson Cup Season Review



Editorial

Debate will continue on the concept of Australians who ply their trade overseas playing a series against or with home based boys.

Basically the idea of getting all these players displaying their skills on an Australian stage is a first class idea.

However, as ever more move abroad, the gap between the two will inevitably widen. The quantity and quality of those in far flung corners of the globe will grow as opposed to within Australia.

So why not plan well ahead three, four or more years, revolutionary I realise but that is what has to happen, get time allocated and introduce a true State of Origin series.

Players would join one of Queensland, Northern NSW with ACT, NSW, Victoria including Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia.

The series to be played on a round robin basis. Five games each year. The winner to be the top points scorer after the five games. A prize of \$100,000 could be a good starting point but this must be worked on to raise the figure to as near \$1 million as possible.

If we plan years' ahead all the players will have it pencilled in and will want to take part. Spectators will have a team to cheer. TV ratings should be extremely attractive.

The Australian sporting public will have the opportunity to see such stars as Bosnich, Okon, Zelic, Viduka, Bernal and maybe Davidson and the new ones as they arise. Could they be Kulscar, Moore, Foxe, Neill, Gonzalez, Skoko, Muscat, Spiteri who knows.

Established home based players Farina, Bingley, Hooker, Tiatto, Ivanovic and co.

Now we have something exciting to attract sponsors, TV advertising, spectators that is the committed and the curious, newspapers and radio stations.

Instead of merely totting up the numbers of 'Aussies Abroad' people will actually see them live, in three dimensions, centre stage — I'd like to see that.

What about it George Negus?

BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

8. Adelaide City

The departing of an Adelaide City legend did little to effect the wonderment of another explosive campaign from the number one side of the city of churches.

Former coach Zoran Matic handed the Zebras play book over to understudy John Perin who admitted to an

circumstances and Perin looked to City's new breed, dino Menillo, Kosta Salapsidis, Angello Costanzo and Jamie Perin to reshape the 'new look' Zebras.

In true city style Perin's men struggled from a poor start and hung around outside the elite six until the final run home.

On record the

sniper for City and took the world record, the goal of the year, players player of the year and the league's top scorer.

John Perin since ostracised by the club for which he has loyally served as a player and as a long term member of the coaching staff was somehow dumped at the end of the season.

Seems nothing less than a Matic-like performance was good enough for the powers that be even though Perin was chosen by his peers

Best Result: 7-0 midweek thrashing of Brisbane in R7.

Worst Result: 7-1 revenge from Brisbane in R18.

Best Run: Unbeaten for 14 games coming into the semis R19-R32.

Favourite Opponents: 7 points Morwell, 9-0.

Worst: Olympic 2 points, 1-2.

Most Individual

Goals/Game: Damian Mori 3 v Morwell R21.

Top Scorer: Damian Mori 31.

Quote of the Year: "It's like singing after Sinatra" Coach John Perin on his task following the Matic era.

Leading Votes: Damian Mori 25, Milan Ivanovic 16, Brad Hassell 15, Craig Foster 13, Goran Lozanovski 10.

STATISTICS

Best: 65 goals scored overall, best in league.

Lowest: 9 victories at home, lowest in top eight.

Highest: 39 scored at home, league's 2nd best.

Best: 26 goals scored on the road, the best.

Best: 5 defeats away, one of the best in the league.

awesome challenge, following the wizardry that Matic performed for the league's most successful side for a decade.

Along with the loss of the super coach, City's squad continued to shed the nucleus of the side which commanded the competition through the late 1980s and 1990s.

Tony Vidmar, Sergio Mall departed through various

Zebras conducted one of the most amazing campaigns, creating their piece of history on the way.

In the sport that is the 'world game' Damian Mori has etched his and his club's name into world sporting history by clocking that famous audacious chip from the kick off against Sydney United.

Mori was truly an inspirational goal



Goran Lozanovski (l) Alex Tobin (r): Once they were champions.

as the coach of the year.

In the regular season the only two sides City failed to beat were Sydney United and Olympic, but in the playoffs they knocked both out.

Perin's only failure would seem that in an extended season such as '95-'96, he failed to get to the last showdown, but after such an extraordinary campaign City went out to Marconi in third match in a week.



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Player of the Year

SPORTSCENE

OKON JOINS LAZIO IN A \$2 MILLION DEAL

(A Special Feature)

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Paul Okon currently rated as Australia's highest profile, (and easily the most expensive) player, has at last severed his long relationship with Belgian side, Club Brugge to join the multi million dollar star-studded side Lazio.

Lazio play in Rome and are one of the most prominent of teams in Serie A.

Although he had completed his five years of service under his contract, Okon was valued at an astronomical \$7 million

his debut in our National Soccer League with Marconi almost seven years ago under the then manager-coach Berti Mariani, received all his scholastic education at Patrician Brothers, Fairfield in western Sydney.

This is the same school attended over the years, by former Marconi great players, Peter Sharne, Steve Calderan, Mariani, Rene Licata, and former Club Director, Remo Nogarotto.

Okon caught his Sydney flight bound for Belgium before moving to Italy.

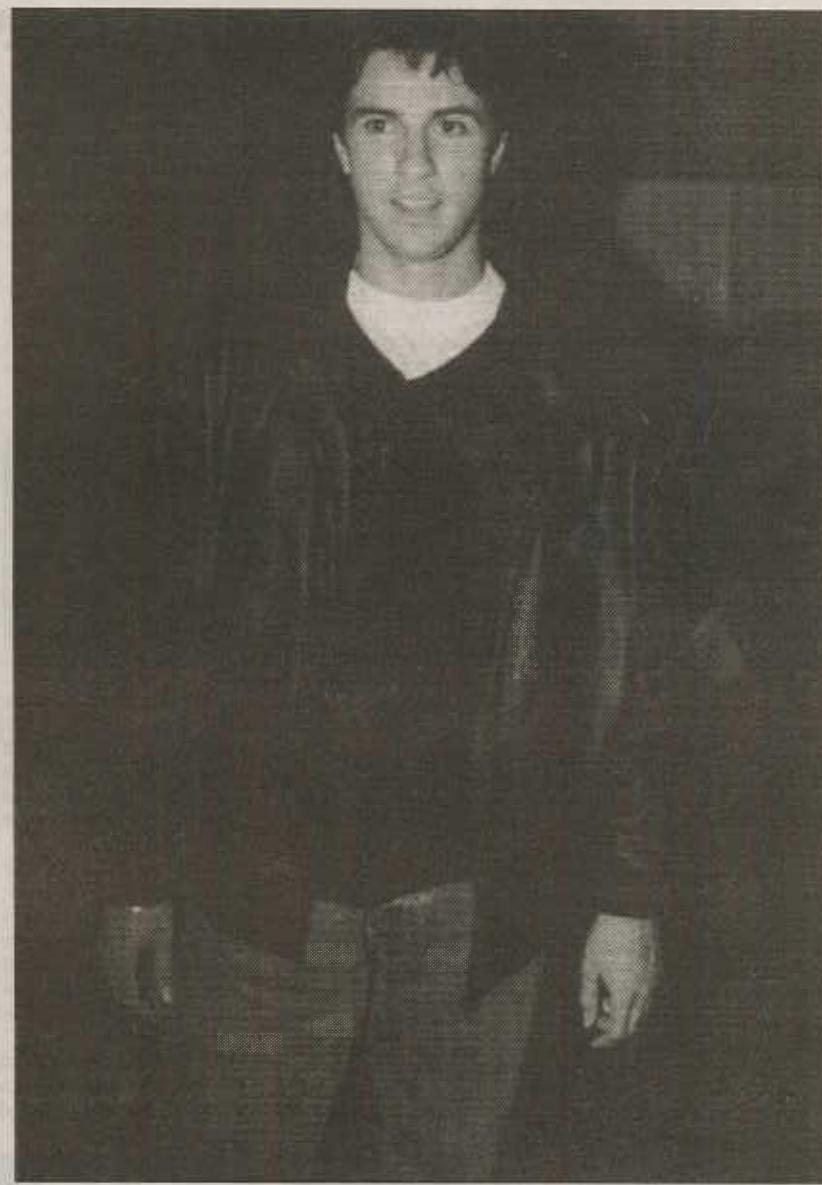
But this time round Paul Okon is about to embark on

"I believe that the Italian League is far superior.

"But Dino Zoff was such an impressive and most influential man, that he convinced me that Lazio was to be my next club.

"I have to report to Lazio by July 1."

ABSW: How does your injured knee feel now after having a full reconstruction on it?



Paul Okon: From September he will be wearing the light-blue of one of Italy's most glamorous clubs.



Beppe Signori: Despite his omission from Italy's Euro 96 squad — Paul Okon's new captain remains one of the world's deadliest finishers.

Paul Okon & John Warren: As a 10 year old he took part in the Johnny Warren Academy.

by Club Brugge who still demanded an amount of money for his release.

The dispute ultimately as expected, ended in court a few weeks back.

Although Brugge lost the case, Okon still has to compensate the Belgian club with something as his club still had an option over him.

This compensation has to be worked out between Lazio and Brugge.

If no settlement is agreed upon, then the court will step back in and determine a sum that the Belgian club must receive.

The now illustrious, and cash-loaded, young Okon, briefly back in Australia for a holiday with his family, flew out of Sydney last Wednesday afternoon to return to Europe.

This proud young and very astute Australian, who made

the biggest step in his professional career by entering the big business in the Italian league.

Just prior to his departure, ABSW caught up with Paul for a brief chat.

ABSW: For how long have you signed with Lazio?

Okon: "It is for a three year period with an option.

"I have earned a substantial sum already which I have channelled into real estate in Australia.

"Lazio have paid me around \$2 million net so far with bonuses to come.

"Dino Zoff, (Italy's famous World Cup goalkeeper), Lazio's president, came to see me in Europe and in fact it was he more than anyone else that swayed me into signing for Lazio.

"PSV Eindhoven were after me and even Chelsea from

"Fine really. The last game I played, I came off with some pain in my right cruciate ligament.

"I had it checked and was strongly advised to have it operated on.

"The operation was done by Dr Maertens, a Belgian specialist, the same specialist that did both Gullit and Van Basten.

"I have already commenced light training on it.

"I have been playing for the last five years in the Belgium league and it was the right time to move on.

"Now it is my aim to try and establish myself at Lazio and hope to stay in Italy for as long as I'm able."

ABSW: When Zoff took you to Italy to sign up, did you get to meet Lazio's coach?

Okon: "Yes I did. Zeman is a Czech, and he had a long



talk to me and explained just what he wanted from me for my first season there.

"The Soccer atmosphere in Italy is just incredible. Nothing like just seeing it on television."

ABSW: Do you speak any Italian?

Okon: "Yes, I am able to speak that language as my Mother is Italian.

"It is going to help me a lot being able to speak it."

ABSW: How do you feel heading to play in one of the world's biggest and richest leagues?

Okon: "Very excited as you can imagine. I always dreamed as a kid of playing in Italy and now my chance has come."

"The Italian league kicks off on September 5."

"I can hardly wait," ended the very bright and intelligent Paul Okon.

Paul Okon, we can hardly wait also.

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GOOD OIL GOOD OIL GOOD

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

DAVID MITCHELL, heroic striker of Australia's 1981 Youth team and later for the 1986 and 1989 World Cup sides, wants to come back to Australia and play for another season.

Big Mitch, aged 34, is currently based at Selengor but due to some unpleasantness there, has asked, and been granted, a free-clearance.

(see separate story).

Already Marconi have contacted big Mitch.

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Evens to the respective positions of Manager of Coaching and Development in the Riverina and Western regions.

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And as far as Ivanovic is concerned, sources close to Adelaide City informed 'Good Oil', Ivanovic was highly unlikely to join Collingwood as the Australian World Cup sweeper still has two years of his contract to serve with the 'Black and Whites'.

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A Players' Agent spoke to 'Good Oil' recently, stating: "Many of our Australian clubs have rocks in their heads as far as transfer fees they are demanding for their players to be released to Europe."

"The reality of it all is that Australian players are going to find it much, much harder to get across to Europe these days."

"The clubs over there will not pay the amounts of monies being banded around by some of the Ericsson League clubs."

"Especially now since the Bosman ruling, Europe has hundreds of players running around out of contract that cost interested clubs nothing to sign up."

"One Sydney club in particular is demanding no less than \$1.1 million for their international player, broken up over three instalments with an upfront payment of \$600,000."

"There's no way they will get it. No way", emphasised the Agent.

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SINGAPORE will be on tour to Brisbane this week to play two warm-up matches whilst the S-League is in recess till the end of this month.

The Singaporean side includes four Australians: Ivan Kelic (above), David Millar, Vlado Bozanovski and Mark Silic.

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Tickets for CLUB MARCONI's lavish and highly entertaining Presentation Night to be held next Friday week (July 12th) in their main Auditorium, are for sale at the Club's Reception.

Cost is \$30 a head, inclusive of a delicious three course dinner, including dessert, as well as some very entertaining surprises.

Seated at each table will be a Marconi player.

Limited seats available, thus bookings are now essential, and can be made by phoning (02) 823-2222.

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ADELAIDE CITY Directors who already have appointed their former player and Australian international striker, John Nyskohus as their coach for the new season replacing departed John Perin, made a second appointment last week.

The 'Black and Whites' (as expected by 'Good Oil') have installed their former tenacious and durable midfielder, Joey Mullen (above) as Nyskohus' assistant.

The Zebras former long-serving star midfielder-cum-defender Sergio Melta, was also offered the position but he declined.

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ANDREW BERNAL, Reading's tough central-marker back in Australia recently for the Super-Stars of Soccer Series, last night told 'Good Oil' from Canberra:

"Although I have bought a house in Reading, (Berkshire) in England, I fully intend to come back with my family to Australia to live one day."

"When I do, I'd very much like to get involved with the media somehow", ended the international defender.

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ZORAN MATIC, coach to Collingwood Warriors the newly admitted club to the Ericsson League for the next season, has found just how hard it is to draft players into his camp.

Rumours flying around linking names that are interested in joining Collingwood, include: Kevin Muscat (see separate story), Milan Ivanovic, Goran Lozanovski, Matthew Bingley, Milan Blagojevic (below).

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SOCCER NSW in a major initiative for the development of Soccer throughout the country areas of that State, has opened offices in Wagga Wagga and Orange.

By early 1997 it is envisaged that this State body will open a third regional office in the rapidly expanding township of Orange.

Soccer NSW has appointed Bruce Wallace and Richard

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ANDREW BERNAL sporting his new haircut.

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ZORAN MATIC: Finding it hard to sign players.

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Bruce Wallace and Richard

Foster who still has a year under contract to serve at Adelaide City, is expected to attract a \$30,000 compensation fee.

Marconi are also believed to be interested Foster's teammate, John Gibson.

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ALEX CASTRO, Canberra Cosmos attacking right midfielder is expected to sign up with West Adelaide.

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The reality of it all is that Australian players are going to find it much, much harder to get across to Europe these days.

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The SYDNEY KINGS, Australian Basketball's current red hot leaders, have been speaking to two Soccer clubs in Sydney with a view to branching out into a cross-sport involvement.

The first talks were carried out with a Sydney Ericsson League club which proved quite interesting.

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LATE LAST WEEK, the second talks took place over lunch, between a high-profile Sydney Kings director and two directors from a NSW Super League club, with the same objective.

The highly professionally-administered Sydney Kings, for this season, have a budget in place of a massive \$2.4 million, that hopefully will go a long way towards winning their League.

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MATTHEW BINGLEY (below), Marconi's mobile midfielder, scored both goals for NSW to win its second and final match on its tour of China over the week-end.

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NSW, skippered by Sydney United's cultured sweeper, Tony Popovic, defeated Guangdong in the ancient city of Zhao Qing by 2-1 in very humid conditions.

Guangdong scored in the 11th minute.

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TONY POPOVIC, skipper of Sydney United, has been a constant source of inspiration to the NSW team.

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TONY POPOVIC: Inspiring the NSW team.

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Dave Bassett gets his man at last!

exclusive to ABSW BY BOB BROOKS

Crystal Palace manager, Dave Bassett has agreed terms with South Melbourne for the transfer of international defender, Kevin Muscat.

Personal terms, usually a formality, have still to be finalised. A medical check will complete the deal.

Muscat will travel directly from the USA to England at the completion of the Atlanta Olympic Games football tournament.

Bassett originally tried to sign Muscat for Sheffield United, last season. The Blades then manager, was suitably impressed with Muscat's trial at the South Yorkshire club. However in the middle of negotiations the Chairman resigned and his replacement froze all transfers.

This left Muscat out in the cold and he reluctantly returned to Australia with the Blues.

Howard Kendall replaced Bassett who then took over towards the end of the season at Palace.

Carl Veart, the non smoking and non drinking Australian international, is already with Crystal Palace and believes that Muscat will fit in perfectly with the First team.

Veart is noted as the perfect professional and will be an excellent example for Muscat to follow as the Aussie duo attempt to lift Palace into the English Premier League.



Kevin Muscat: Looks like he will be joining Veart at Crystal Palace.

Joe Spiteri from Knights to Wolves

exclusive to ABSW
BY BOB BROOKS

Wolverhampton, in the West Midlands of England, will be the new location for Joe Spiteri to strut his stuff on the field of play.



MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

Mark McGhee, Wolves manager, has come to an agreement with Melbourne Knights committee for the transfer of the Australian Olympian to England.

Finalisation of the details for Spiteri's move will take place during the next few weeks.

The bustling goalscorer will, like Muscat, travel directly to England after the Games. He will join with the Wolves first team's pre-season training and games.

Providing a medical check is satisfactory, then expect Spiteri to be wearing the famous old gold and black colours of Wolverhampton Wanderers in Division 1.



Joe Spiteri: His bustling, aggressive style should fit into the English game.

STAR PROFILE Paul Okon



Date of Birth:	April 5, 1972.
Birthplace:	Parramatta, Sydney.
Previous Clubs:	Fairfield Heights, Marconi, Bruges (Belgium).
Current Club:	Lazio (Italy).
Position:	Sweeper or central midfielder.
Nickname:	"Paolo".
Marital Status:	Single.
Occupation:	Fulltime pro.
Best Aspect Of Your Game:	Reader, passing, breaking from deep.
Most Difficult Opponent:	Oilles De Bilde (Anderlecht's striker).
Most Impressive Local Player:	Paul Agostino and Mark Viduka.
Favourite Overseas Player:	Roberto Baggio (I've named my dog after him).
Favourite Overseas Club:	Juventus.
Nation To Win Euro '96:	Germany.
What Qualities Make a Good Coach?	Communication skills to bring out the best from his players.
Honours:	NSW U/13s, 14s, 16s, Australia's Youth, 1992 Barcelona Olympic side and senior Australian team.
Ambitions For 1996:	To firmly establish myself with Lazio's first team.
Ambitions After Retiring:	To be able to put something back into Australian Soccer at any level.
Most Memorable Moment:	Meeting Roberto Baggio in Holland at the end of 1995. He's sponsored by Diadora and through contacts with that Company I was invited to go to Holland and meet him personally when he was over there doing promos for them.
Hobbies Outside Soccer:	Golf and swimming.
Best Goal You've Seen Scored:	Maradona's against England in 1986 Mexico World Cup.
Favourite Food:	My Mum's cooking and pasta.
Favourite Drink:	Mineral water.
Car You Drive:	BMW 318 i.s.
Favourite TV Show:	Match Of The Day.
TV Show You Refuse To Watch:	Anything with horse racing.
Favourite Movie:	"Up Close & Personal".
Favourite Actor/Actress:	Robert Redford and Michelle Pfeiffer.
Preferred Music:	Italian and Soul.
Least Preferred Music:	Heavy Metal.
Favourite Comedian:	Mark Bosnich.
Pet Hates:	All selfish people.
Special Advice To Young Players:	Have an ambition but be prepared to work hard to fulfil that ambition.
Person You Would Most Like To Meet:	My future wife.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

G'wan youse Olyroos!

Dear Sir,
Now that the Olyroos have qualified for the Olympic's may I suggest that the ABSW really get behind them.

Let's raise the interest on the, lets have the latest news on their progress, lets have stories and interviews on players and coaches let us get really close to them, what are they eating?

What are they doing when they aren't training?

How many times a day are they training?

Let's really build the interest up on them so that all fans back home can share in this great event.

Lets show the people of Australia what it means to represent your country at the Olympics in the game of soccer. Let's get the youth of Australia to say wow I want to be an Olyroo one day.

Let's give the team the star treatment because that is what they are.

Any news on them will arouse lots of interest I'm sure. At the same time ABSW will benefit from this coverage I'm sure, so lets get right behind the boys and the sport of soccer for this is a great opportunity for everyone involved.

I know the interest on the is high so lets give them something to feed off and give the youth of Australia something to aspire to.

I hope my suggestions have inspired you's to give us a great coverage on the as they prepare to go for Gold.

Thanking you's for your time.

Paul Bottari,
Balcarra, WA.

George eats tripe mongers

Dear Sir,

By George what a reply! I am of course referring to a letter by George Negus to the Australian newspaper on June 21, 1996 as a result of a couple of articles written by negative Ray (Gatt) and John McDonald in the same newspaper the morning after the recent International Travellers v True Blues match.

A couple of years ago this type of journalistic tripe would have gone unchallenged, but not anymore! Soccer Australia defended our game with the passion only seen on the terraces. Mr Negus letter is just the kind of response we have been waiting for.

It's been a long time coming. Now we know we are not alone in the defence of our game, the professionals at Soccer Australia can take a bow as you deserve it.

The Game was great, the telecast very good. I would not miss my chance to see the entertainment provided by both our part-timers and overseas based professionals, live at Lang Park, Brisbane.

Once again thank you Soccer Australia for the opportunity to watch our great players live and in person. I can only add that I am enjoying the way you are kicking derrieres for the benefit of our sport.

Serge Armanis, Everton Hills, Qld.

Arrivederci Snr Sacchi

Dear Sir,
Watching the group matches at Euro 96 you have to wonder about certain national team coaches, (their thinking or lack of it).

Take that Mr Sacchi for example, he takes over the National job during the qualifying stages for Euro 92 Italy fail to make it to Sweden.

Then Italy under Sacchi prepare for the qualifying stages for the World Cup in 1994, they qualify, having to win their last game against Portugal at the San Siro.

Once there, Italy lose their opening game against Ireland, find their way past Norway, and can only draw against on enthusiastic Mexico.

So they scrape through to the next round. Thanks to some poor finishing (see Salinas) and the inexperience and big headiness of Nigeria.

Italy stumble unconvincing past Nigeria and Spain and end up somehow to meet Bulgaria appearing in the World Cup after a long absence and to their credit — players credit (see R. Baggio, P. Maldini) beat Bulgaria, convincingly, thanks to a certain Roberto Baggio.

Wow, after all that drama, Italy managed to make it, to the World Cup final only to lose it, to tournament favourites and that world class outfit of Brazil.

Through all this though it was Roberto Baggio, not Mr Sacchi's so called 'systems' formations' that took Italy to

the brink of something special, somewhere where it should never have got to.

So comes Euro 96 — Italy qualify, second it must be said to Croatia.

Squad announced — "Mr Sacchi decides his system doesn't include footballers, Roberto Baggio, Gianluca Vialli, and G. Signori.

How do you explain this? How do you justify this?

Mr Sacchi, what system?

Who are you trying to kid, you've got it all wrong! Sadly.

And sadly for all of Italy and its thousands of supporters around the world (see Australia), the boys from the Norton St, cafeterias will not be drinking their cappuccinos with cream on top, for a while anyway, their pain will be forever lasting.

Sadly Mr Sacchi, the Zola's Casiraghis, Ravanelis, were not good enough on the world stage.

Your time is up, Sir. Rumours of tomato prices rising in Italy are RIPE!

Any one interested in the Italian national job should address their resumes to the Italian Federation.

William Diak, NSW.

(PS: The French national team coach seems to be in the same mould with the Italian, it seems players like Eric Cantona, Ginola, and J.P. Papin don't fit the 'system'.

Italy and the French are surely poorer, without these world class players).

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

Blame the "Fools Idiots Fatheads and Asses"

Dear Sir,

Most organisations planning an event of the calibre of Euro 96 would want to have the best available players involved from the kick-off, more particularly, in the semi-final and final matches.

Yet the Germans and Czechs were only just able to field teams in the semi-finals. Was Euro 96 meant to be a spectacle or a farce?

Don't blame the referees. Don't blame UEFA! Blame FIFA!

As a form of discipline, the cumulative yellow-card-type punishment for serious (?) offences is a DISASTER. When my kids stepped out of line we didn't wait three days or longer to give them their come-uppance. Punishment should not only fit the crime it should be IMMEDIATE.

If a player is so bad that he needs to be punished by losing some match time surely the game in which he happens to be playing is where it should happen. He can be disciplined in a number of ways, most players hate to be off the field during a game and coaches are not keen to play a man or two short either. If we adopted Basketball's "fouling-off" system as well as League's "sin bin" the referee could deal with foul play in any of four ways:

1. A free kick or a penalty with a warning or send-off as necessary.

2. A green card (fouling-off) which would prevent the player taking any further part in the game but would allow a replacement to come on.

3. A yellow card which would result in instant dismissal for a period of some minutes with no replacement from the bench.

(Neither 2 nor 3 would have any cumulative outcomes. 2 takes care of repeated infringements, punishing the team by removing a first-choice player. 3 takes care of all but the most serious foul play though, with two minutes to go in the match, the referee might prefer to use the green card or the red).

4. A red card which would mean what it means today, i.e. immediate dismissal — no replacement — the next match out and — an extension of the suspension depending on the player's record and the nature of the offence.

CAMERAS

If FIFA were to get really serious about the conduct of the game they would call for the installation of cameras at each field in a major tournament to see that justice is done with offside decisions and the allowing or disallowing of goals.

It is all very well to talk about "fair play" and have the players shake hands before each match but the indications are that FIFA could not care less about justice. In terms of being up with the times they are light years behind cricket. Cricket! Of all sports!

Linesmen need the peripheral vision of a Maradona, a Baggio or a Stichkov to be able to watch the delivery of a pass from 30 metres downfield and, AT THAT EXACT MOMENT, determine whether the ultimate receiver or one of his team mates is in an on-side position and influencing play.

These days, there can be a player passively offside to be ignored in that diagnosis. I have \$10 which says that linesmen do not take a SCIENTIFIC test of peripheral vision or, if they do, not more than two linesmen the world over are capable of passing it. This analysis is based on the assumption that there are more players than officials but exceedingly few Stoichkovs.

Camera coverage might be rather difficult for the entire field so we come back to the this that offside should apply only from the 18 yard line in enemy territory.

Justice must be done! (The linesman would still have the impossible task of having his eye on events occurring simultaneously at perhaps 45 or 90 degrees to one another. Cameras have wider scope of vision and are capable of that!)

Is it possible that a mere human being might detect, as the camera did, that the ball crossed the line after hitting the crossbar in the match between Romania and Bulgaria?

It wasn't obvious on television at normal speed so one would have to absolve the linesman and referee. Besides, the linesman had to be level with the second last defender.

He could only have been on the eyeline had two defenders been in the goalmouth.

This wasn't the case and it rarely is in such situations! The referee might have been on the byeline, the only place to see whether the ball crosses the line. However that may not be the best place from which to keep an eye on the shoulder/shoving/obstructing/niggle that goes on in modern soccer?

Romania went home as a result of that goal being disallowed and they would hardly be singing the praises of FIFA with its pretence of fair play.

Alan Tredinnick,
New Lambton, NSW.

From a fan in Slovakia!

Dear Mr. Editor,

Let me send you the best regards from Slovakia, Central Europe! I wish you the best success in your interesting job, best success in all activities. The best wishes, special best health as well as happiness, also in the private life. My best regards and wishes of all redactors, writers, columnists, etc., in your excellent magazine. Best wishes of Australian soccer, especially best success for your Olympic Team in Atlanta 96. I am sure, your Olympic squad is very strong and has very good chances for the medal positions. Best success for your National Team. I hope, that Australia will be among the world top elite 32 teams in France 1998!

And, of course, best success of your U-20 and other youth National Teams, as well as your club teams on international events!

I am great Fan of the Australian soccer, which is, no doubt, one of the most progressive in the world last years! I am sure, soccer has a bright future in your beautiful country. Your soccer top representatives in Europe/Okon, Bosnic, Slater, Moore, Farina, etc. are superclass players of international level and I am sure, that also the young generation of Australian U-20 Team, which played so excellent attacking soccer at 1995 World Cup in Qatar, continues successful way of the Australian soccer.

Excuse, please, that I write this letter with numerous mistakes . . . I am so sorry, but I am still a beginner in English, I have now enough chances for the conversation

here in Slovakia . . . Thanks for your understanding!

I am teacher of the geography and P.E. at Junior HS in my Southwest Slovakian hometown Pezinok, a suburb of Bratislava, our Capital City. I am former soccer player, midfielder, 173cm, now play soccer with my friends twice per week, also work at school as boys U-15 coach and this coaching work is my greatest hobby.

Except it enjoying jogging, other sports, reading sports magazines and all covering the geography.

Unfortunately, here in Central Europe it's very difficult/or even unable . . . reaching more information and news regarding Australian soccer, about your National Teams, National League Ericsson Cup, State

Premier Leagues, clubs, etc. . . . etc. . . .

I am sure, your AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY is the best and most informative magazine covering Australian soccer scene and I'll be almost thankful and special grateful to you, when you would be so kind and can help me with one or two issues of your excellent publication. I will know your magazine!!!

It would be great for me!

So, I finish my letter for now, thank you so much for your great help beforehand and hope on your reply very soon!

With best regards and wishes your faithfully Fan in Slovakia, Central Europe.

Jan Boris,

SLOVAKIA

Central Europe

Cd/from :

Ján Boris

Štreetná 43

90201 Pezinok

SLOVAKIA

Central Europe

Air Mail To:

"AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY"

P.O. Box 155

MARRICKVILLE, NSW 2204

A U S T R A L I A

PAR AVION



"I gave him the wrong name - and the wrong number - and the wrong team"

STAR PROFILE

Andrew Bernal



Date of Birth: May 16, 1966.
Birthplace: Canberra.
Previous Clubs: AIS, Sporting Gijon (Spanish first division), Ipswich Town (England), Sydney Olympic.
Current Club: Reading (England first division).
Position: Central marker or defensive midfielder.
Nickname: "Birch".
Marital Status: Married to Kathryn with three year old daughter, Isabella.
Occupation: Fulltime pro player.
Best Aspect Of Your Game: Durability and consistency.
Most Difficult Opponent: Eric Cantona (in an FA Cup match) and Steve Bull (Wolves).
Most Impressive Local Players: Paul Okon and Tony Popovic.
Favourite Overseas Player: Francisco Redondo.
Favourite Overseas Club: Real Madrid.
Nation To Win Euro '96: Germany.
What Qualities Make a Good Coach: A good communicator, well organised, honest and command the respect from all his players.
Honours: ACT's U/13s, 14s, 15s, 16s, Youth & Australia.
Ambitions For 1996: To win promotion into the English Premier League and stay fit.
Ambitions After Retiring: Get involved in coaching or media.
Most Memorable Moment: The birth of my daughter Isabella, while I was playing at Wembley Stadium against Bolton for promotion.
Hobbies Outside Soccer: Drama-theatre.
Best Goal You've Seen Scored: Van Basten's volley in the 1988 Euro Championships for Holland against Russia.
Favourite Food: Pizza.
Favourite Drink: Hot chocolate.
Car You Drive: B.M.W. 318i.
Favourite TV Show: Seinfeld and Melrose Place.
TV Show You Refuse To Watch: 'Prisoners'.
Favourite Movie: Carlito's Way.
Favourite Actor/Actress: Marlon Brandon, Demi Moore.
Preferred Music: Metallica.
Least Preferred Music: Reggae.
Favourite Comedian: Steve Martin and Danny DeVito.
Pet Hates: Ignorant people.
Special Advice To Young Players: Like the 'Nike' advert says, "Just do it".
Person You Would Most Like To Meet: Marlon Brandon and Mike Tyson.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

at Olympic Park — May 26, 1996

Marconi Fairfield 3 West Adelaide 1
 Vaughan Hunter (11) Greg Hagias (4)
 Nick Bolevski (33, 57)

Marconi: Les Pogliacomi, Peter Krljar, Anthony Arena, Daniel Uccino, Vaughan Hunter, Scott Jeffers, Michael Kladis, Michael Galluzzo, Jeremy Harris, Darren McDonald, Nick Bolevski.

Subs.: Rob Debrin cat for Pogliacomi; Rob Cicak for Michael Galluzzo; Sam Larocca for Darren McDonald.

Not used: Buddy Farah.

West Adelaide: Nathan Wilby, Matthew Villios, Athan Lekkas, Scott Morrison, Swaif Khan, Chris Krotiris, Greg Hagias, Kon Antoniou, Christian Correia, Reshat Mezenof, Michael Barbier.

Subs.: John Cutillo for Correia; Steven Georgiou for Krotiris.

Not used George Yatzis. Marconi won a unique treble with this victory. First they won the Northern competition then the Grand Final against AIS.

A significant point of the season for Marconi was their 100% record in five matches against the AIS. In fact they kept the Institute Scholarship holders scoreless in while putting 10 goals past them.

Editors note: We are indebted to Marconi Fairfield and West Adelaide for this vital information which was finally compiled this week.

BIG MITCH WANTS TO COME HOME

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

DAVID MITCHELL, Australia's striker during the 1981 World Youth Championships hosted by Australia, has run into some political troubles and wants to come home, stating that he's had enough of Malaysian Soccer.

Fans clearly remember big Mitch's heroic deeds for Australia's Youth team in October 1981 when Australia knocked out the then current World Youth champions Argentina 2-1 at the old Sydney Sports Ground.

The big Australian warhorse has also exhibited many courageous displays for Australia's senior team.

On international arenas playing for Frank Arok's

World Cup side Mitchell, whilst partnering his captain John Kosmina in the attack-line, magnificently fought many battles, especially against arch rivals, Israel.

Now however, the easy-going and quiet achiever Mitchell, has run into some personal problems whilst playing for Selengor in the Malaysian League.

Mitchell, who just last week turned 34, has been able to gain a free clearance from Selengor to possibly return to Australia.

When we contacted the veteran goal-ace in Malaysia last night, ABSW was most surprised with Mitchell's unsavoury situation.

It appears that the towering Aussie international striker has had a personality clash with his coach.

Former Melbourne



David Mitchell: Australia's lanky targetman wants to come home.

Warriors on the warpath

by Paul Millar of AAP

Fledgling National League club Collingwood Warriors is aiming to sign nine new players within the next week to create a solid foundation for its entry to the competition next season.

Coach Zoran Matic expected to make an announcement on the players today but said there had been hiccups as some of the prospects were in the United States with the Olyroo team.

He also revealed that several of the signings would come from the recent game between the International Travellers and the True Blues.

"We are hoping to sign at least eight or nine new players and we are starting to close the gap," Matic said.

The former Adelaide City coach said he would be chasing the best young talent available in Victoria.

"We have to blend the enthusiasm of the

youngsters with some level heads though."

The Collingwood side will draw several players from the Melbourne Warriors who play in the Victorian Premier and will use that club as a nursery side to develop talent.

AFL club Collingwood, the best supported team of any football code in the country, has aligned itself with the soccer side.

Matic said last week it would be a tough assignment building a team from scratch, but he expected to have the framework of his team in place for the start of training in a fortnight.

"It's going to be hard as there is nothing there to build on. I will be looking at all the talent there is available in Victoria."

Socceroo defender Mehmet Durakovic is believed to be a prime target for the Warriors as he is keen to return to Melbourne after a stint in Malaysia with cup-winning side Selangor.



Mehmet Durakovic: Prime target for National League newcomers, Collingwood Warriors.

Knights' right midfielder, Josip Biskic plus former South Melbourne sweeper, Mehmet Durakovic also Salangor, wanted to get away from the Club which is currently coached by former Knights' man, Kenny Worden.

In fact the veteran Biskic has been given a free clearance to the Malacca club while Australia's World Cup marker Durakovic, is also expected to depart from Selengor.

The club is currently in third position behind leaders Negri and Sabah with Sarawak running fourth.

Two other Australians in Malaysia, Gus Cerro and Jose Iriarte are both doing exceptionally well playing for League-leaders, Negri.

Big Mitch stated to ABSW, "I must move out as I've had enough here."

"I have to go back to England very soon to sell the house we have there and collect most of my furniture."

"But I believe that I still

have a year or two left in me and would very much like to come back to Australia, especially to play in Sydney."

"Marconi's coach Manfred Schaefer in fact has already rung me to see what I'm doing."

"I no longer want to play up front, but would prefer to play in a deep midfield position from where I believe I still can offer plenty."

"I have a contact in Singapore who wants me to go over and be his player-assistant coach but I don't know just yet."

"Ronnie Smith (former head-coach at the A.I.S.) now coaching Sabah (second placed in the M.S.League), wanted me there as well, but he already has three foreign players on his books."

"Somehow I feel that it is time to come home", ended the big fella.

Possessing enormous experience gained from his extensive travels whilst

overseas, the former Adelaide City and Sydney City marksman commenced his crusades across Europe when he first joined Glasgow Rangers from Sydney City at the end of our 1983 season.

"From Rangers Mitchell went to Holland for two seasons before trying his luck for a season in the German League."

A year later, Bobby Campbell who was based at Chelsea in England, signed up Mitchell for a season.

But when Campbell was later sacked, Mitchell departed to briefly play in Turkey before returning to England but to join Millwall in England's first division.

He later had two successful years at Swindon.

Two years ago Mitchell moved into the Malaysian League and again became a hero when he scored the only goal in Selengor's glorious Cup Final victory last season.



Ericsson Cup Season Review



BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

9. Brisbane Strikers

Brisbane finally produced a football side of which to be proud, their prodigal son, a fierce determination at home and a semi final appearance highlighted their season.

Frank Farina's return to Australian pitches was a master stroke from coach Bruce Stowell, the mere presence of one of Europe's best strikers inspired his team, his fans, his sponsors and the City of Brisbane.

A minor cult hero in a city



nurtured on rugby league, Farina was a media darling and always a genius on the



Jason Polak: Transferred north to drive strikers midfield.

Best: 17 wins overall equal best.

Worst: 10 defeats overall, worst of the top six.

Best: 35 goals conceded 2nd best in the league.

Best: 12 wins at home, equal best.

Best: 1 defeat at home, equal best.

Best: 45 goals scored at home, league's highest.

Best: Conceded 12 goals at home, 2nd in the competition.

Worst: 9 defeats on the road, worst of the top six.

Worst: 9 goals scored away, worst in the league.

Quote of the Year:
"Frank's very upset, he doesn't even know why he was sent off."

Coach Bruce Stowell after Farina sent off in early rounds.

pitch.

But he was not the sole star in a more enterprising looking Brisbane, but more an influence that brought on the team from previous seasons.

Jason Polak, Alan Hunter, Troy Crawley, Sean Cranney prior to his injury and an injury free Rod Brown set the basis for a wonderfully attacking side.

The Strikers looked always likely to appear in the finals, but their poor record on the road was always going to give them difficulty.

At home Brisbane scored

STATISTICS

Best Result: 7-1 win over former champions Ad City in R18.

Worst: 7-0 defeat by Ad City in R7.

Best Run: Unbeaten in 12 matches from R12-R23.

Favourite Opponents: Morwell 9 points, 8-1.

Worst Opponent: Knights 1 point, 0-2.

Most Individual Goals/Game: Farina 3 v Stud R14, 3 v Ad City R18.

Top Scorer: Frank Farina 19.

Leading Votes: Frank Farina 25, Alan Hunter 18, Troy Cranney 13, Clint Bolton, Chris Zoricich 9, Rod Brown 9.



Frank Farina: The Prodigal son returned.



Rod Brown: Put away 12 goals for the Strikers.

more goals than any side, 45 in 16 matches at an average of just less than three per game, while on the road managing a paltry nine goals in 17 matches at a goal every two games.

Beaten only once at Suncorp while winning twelve was again the best of any club in the league and their passion for playing at home was never more evident than in the 7-1 hiding handed out to Adelaide City following a similar scoreline for City earlier in the season.

The Strikers were unable to dominate any of the top six clubs in the regular campaign, failing to beat or score against the Knights while keeping

Souths scoreless through three matches. Against Morwell and Canberra, the Queenslanders took maximum points and were unbeaten against Newcastle, Wollongong and Souths.

As the competition concluded Brisbane harboured a possibility of winning the minor premiership, however, a 2-1 defeat at Olympic doomed the side to sudden death semi final football, after a solid run in losing none of their previous five matches.

The loss in the final match, was a bitter blow and Brisbane never recovered, losing their two legged semi final against Sydney United in a controversial semi final.

Soccer on radio in Australia

Further details are coming in of radio shows featuring soccer — the World Game.

This week it is Melbourne's Southern FM 88.3 which broadcasts from Moorabbin.

Bill Brickell, a VSF Board member, and Alistair Webster, Vice Chairman of the Amateur Soccer Federation, run a Saturday evening session from 6-7pm called 'Saturday Scoreboard'.

At 6.30pm all the VSF results of Saturday's games get an airing.

Chris Bambridge a former FIFA, and World Cup referee, joins Brickell and Webster on Thursdays.

News, views, Discussions and Guests

all come together on 'Southern Soccer' from 6.30-7pm.

Southern FM 88.3 is a community radio station run on a voluntary basis.



NSW WIN IN CHINA

The New South Wales team kicked off its tour of China with a 2-0 win over national league team Foshan on Friday.

A goal in each half secured

the victory, but the Blues also had two goals disallowed and missed several relatively easy opportunities.

Sydney United utility David Zdrilic opened the scoring in the 37th minute,

finishing off some good work by Andrew Harper down the right.

Harper scored the second off a cross from the left by Brendan Renaud.

NSW goalkeeper Brett Hughes was hardly troubled during the match.

"I'd like to play with that defence in front of me every week," said Hughes in

reference to NSW trio Milan Blagojevic, captain Tony Popovic and Dominic Longo.

"They're magnificent. It makes my job so much easier."

Blues coach David Ratcliffe said: "When you consider that some of the boys like Paul Bilokapic, Mathew Horsley and Zdrilic haven't played for some time it was a very good team performance."



Dominic Longo: Outstanding in NSW defence in China.



David Zdrilic: Opened the scoring for the Blues.

Olyroos are top class — Bosnich

BY PAUL MILLAR OF AAP

Australia has the players to cause an upset and win the Olympic soccer tournament, according to former Olyroo and Aston Villa star Mark Bosnich.

Bosnich, who was in the Australian side which clinched fourth place at the Barcelona Games, said the current Under 23 side did not appear to have a glaring weakness and could be a force in Atlanta.

"I think they have the potential to go even better than we did in Barcelona, but they'll have to do a lot of hard work and settle in well before they achieve that," Bosnich said.

"I think they could even go on and win it if they play to their potential."

The English Premier League goalkeeper watched in admiration as the Olyroos clinched a berth in the Games with a 5-0 thrashing of Canada in Sydney.

But he warned it would be a different story against France and Spain.

"We have to be much cagier against teams like that as they will hit you on the break and they will punish you badly."

"I haven't seen any flaws in the Australian team, but if there are any they will be exploited in this competition," Bosnich said.

He believed the current squad might have the edge in front-runners on the team he played in.

"One of the differences between the sides is that we did not have a big striker like Mark Viduka. He is just such a fantastic player, he is all class."

He also singled out striker Joe Spiteri for special mention saying he was a top support player for Viduka skipper Kevin Muscat also won the applause of the national goalkeeper.

But Bosnich saved many of his plaudits for Danny Tiatto. "He's a real livewire, he wants to be in everything and playing between the midfield and the frontline is such an important position."

"He plays the linking role so well, he's the Rolls Royce of the team, he never stops," Bosnich said.

Eintracht Frankfurt's Ned Zelic will have a busy schedule on the lead up to the games as he has been picked to play for the World Stars XI against Brazil in New York on July 14.

Zelic, one of three over-age players in the Olyroo team, will be able to see just how good some of the Brazilian Olympians are as they will be competing in the game at the Giants Stadium.



*Send your faxes
of Good Luck!
Australia until
July 7 Australia
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in Florida*
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Goran Lozanovski: In Atlanta for the Games with the Olyroos.



Danny Tiatto: His bustling style will be an asset in the Olyroos Group matches.

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Olympic Games venues

Football tournament 1996

Sanford Stadium, Athens in Georgia

Finals & Semi Finals
 8 matches –
 4 men's & 4 women's
 Capacity: 83,000
 100km from Atlanta
 Ticket Prices: \$27
 to \$133



Australia's first two games are on Sat July 20 and Mon July 22 at the Orange Bowl, Miami in Florida

Preliminary round &
 Men's quarter finals
 8 men's matches.
 Capacity: 73,000
 1070km from
 Atlanta
 Ticket Prices: \$20
 to \$75



The Olyroos then play on Wednesday July 23 at the Citrus Bowl, Orlando in Florida

Preliminary rounds
 only
 6 men's matches
 Capacity: 65,600
 715kms from Atlanta
 Ticket Prices: \$20
 to \$40



Bebeto in for Brazil Olympians

Bebeto is going to Atlanta, but Romario is not.

Romario, the star of the 1994 World Cup, was the most notable absentee from the list of 18 players named last week in Brazil's squad for the Olympic Games.

Coach Mario Zagallo had made it clear that he would not take both Romario and Bebeto. Each team is allowed only three players over 23, and the two strikers are over the age limit.

The chances of Romario — voted the world's best player in 1994 — were not helped by some erratic displays on the pitch and a perceived attitude problem.

While Bebeto was a model of good behaviour on and off the field, Romario was accused of laziness and making obscene gestures at fans.

An abundance of good young strikers also made Romario dispensable. Aside from Bebeto, Zagallo named Savio, Luizao and Ronaldinho — a World Cup veteran at 20. Caio, a forward who plays with Internazionale in the Italian Serie A, did not make the list.

Zagallo named four players from foreign clubs: Ronaldinho, of PSV Eindhoven; Juninho, of Middlesbrough; Aldair, of Roma, and Roberto Carlos of Internazionale.



Bebeto: One of Brazil's three over-age players.

The squad includes four players from São Paulo state champion Palmeiras: Flávio Conceição, Amaral, Rivaldo and Luizão.

Narciso and Ronaldo look set to compete for one of the fullback berths, next to World Cup veteran Aldair.

Zagallo calls versatile midfielder-attacker Rivaldo, the third player over 23, the best player currently plying his trade in Brazil.

The coach also named four players to a back-up squad in case of injuries: goalkeeper Rogério,

defender André Cruz, midfielder Marcelinho Paulista and forward Giovani.

The Olympic gold medal is the only major soccer prize Brazil has never won.

Brazilian squad —
Goalkeepers: Dida, Danrlei.

Defenders: Ze Maria, André Luis, Roberto Carlos, Aldair, Ronaldo, Narciso.

Midfielders: Flávio Conceição, Ze Elias, Amaral, Juninho, Rivaldo, Beto.

Forwards: Bebeto, Savio, Luizão, Ronaldinho.

Australian defender Ned Zelic was confirmed last week as a member of the squad for the FIFA World All-Star game, alongside such stars as Brazilian striker Romario and 1995 World Player of the Year George Weah of Liberia.

The team, which will be coached by Denmark's Richard Moeller-Nielsen, will meet Brazil at Giants Stadium in New York on July 14 as part of a double bill, along with the first Major League Soccer All-Star game.

The World Stars were selected by FIFA.

The elite world team also features Colombian goalkeeper Rene Higuita, French defender Marcel Desailly, German defender Lothar Matthäus, English midfielder Paul Ince, Danish forward Michael Laudrup and Ghanaian forward Abedi Pele.

German striker Jürgen Klinsmann was named in the squad, but is considered doubtful due to a torn calf muscle.

A couple of athletes will be doing double duty. Flamboyant Mexican goalkeeper Jorge Campos, who plays for the Los Angeles Galaxy of the MLS, and US National Team captain John Harkes, a



Ned Zelic: Will play alongside some of the biggest names in world football.

midfielder with D.C. United, were selected in the world team and the MLS All-Stars.

FIFA World All-Star squad:

Goalkeepers: Jorge Campos (Mexico), Rene Higuita (Colombia).

Defenders: Marcel Desailly (France), Fernando

Hierro (Spain), Mark Fish (South Africa), Lothar Matthäus (Germany), Ned Zelic (Australia).

Midfielders: Krassimir

Balakov (Bulgaria), David Ginola (France), John Harkes (United States), Paul Ince (England), Fernando Redondo (Argentina).

Forwards: Jürgen Klinsmann (Germany), Michael Laudrup (Denmark), Kazu Miura (Japan), Abedi Pele (Ghana), Romario

(Brazil), Gianluca Vialli (Italy), George Weah (Liberia), Gianfranco Zola (Italy).

Second match referee but no video replays

Lennart Johansson said last week that UEFA planned to look at the idea of introducing a second match referee on the pitch.

Johansson, admitting there had been refereeing errors at the Euro 96 tournament, said he hoped UEFA would soon try out a second referee experiment in top-class soccer and added that he wanted professional officials too.

But the UEFA boss, speaking at a news conference, said there was no support within his organisation for the idea of using video replays during matches.

"The idea of having two referees for every match may be looked at again," he said. "It would be good if experiments could be made in competitions in major countries."



Lennart Johansson:
"We must allow referees to make mistakes."

bookings, a sanction which has ruled experienced German internationals Andreas Moeller and Stefan Reuter out of tomorrow's final against the Czech Republic.

"We may have to look and see if we can change this for the future," he said.

Soccer is among the few major sports which has resisted the advance of technology, refusing the use of video evidence to assist referees in making crucial decisions.

"There is no support for this," he said. "We must allow referees to make mistakes. Players do, coaches do and so does the press."

"Ninety percent of yellow cards were for brutal attacks from behind," he said, a surprising statement given that FIFA rules prescribe red cards for violent tackles from behind.

Johansson said the main problem with refereeing was that there was a different level of tolerance in individual countries for certain offences and this showed when match officials from various nations officiated at international tournaments.

He said UEFA might look again at the yellow card system and the automatic suspension for one match after two

Olyroos steaming in Florida

BY PAUL MILLER — AAP

Australia's Olyroos are feeling the sting of the Florida sun and shedding plenty of kilos in sauna-like conditions as they prepare for the Atlanta Olympics.

Defender Steve Horvat said the humidity at the Fort Lauderdale base was testing even the fittest of players and the side was starting to realise just how tough the Olympic campaign was going to be.

"It's going to be a case of who can cope best with the conditions, but I believe if we put in the right kind of preparation we're going to be in with a great chance," Horvat said from Florida.

But at the moment Horvat, one of the three over-age players in the squad, admits he is doing it hard in the heat.

"The worst thing is the humidity, it really takes it out of you, when you just take a walk to dinner you end up covered in sweat."

The Hajduk Split stopper was a late inclusion in the squad after Glasgow Rangers defender Craig Moore withdrew through injury.

Horvat returned from Croatia in the off-season to make preparations for his wedding but a call from national coach Eddie Thomson gave him plenty

more to think about before he tied the knot.

Unlike many of the Olyroos, Horvat has had little match practice in recent weeks and has been working out on his own.



Atlanta 1996

But Thomson has been giving the Socceroo additional work and he's been putting in on his own to make up ground before the first group game against France in Miami on July 20.

The Olyroos had two training sessions last Thursday, but Horvat said for many of the players they were just stretching out sessions with plenty of ball work.

"But the biggest problem is that you can lose a lot of fluid and they are weighing us before and after every training session," he said.

The Australians are hopeful of arranging at least three trial games before they move into the Games village on July 6.

Leichhardt goalie for Iberia

Frank Miluletic from NSW Super League outfit, Leichhardt Tigers, who recently went for a 10 day trial with Spanish first division side Rayo Vallecano, is expected to crack a contract, but not necessarily from a Spanish club.

Frank's agent spoke to 'Good Oil' last night and informed us, "Frank has a

very good chance of getting an overseas club as he trialled well.

"There were other people watching him closely whilst we were at Rayo Vallecano and they were greatly impressed.

"I expect something to come through sometime this week from either Spain or Portugal," ended the player's Agent.



Frank Miluletic (c) shown here with (l) Robert Casserley and Scott Xuereb (r) from Leichhardt Tigers.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

BY RICHARD KREIDER

SWAN SLUMP CONTINUES

The efforts of Swan IC to climb away from the base of the ladder, again proved unsuccessful last Saturday, following a 4-2 defeat by Perth at their Italian Club ground.

In fact it was not a good weekend for any of the teams in bottom half of the ladder, who all lost. But the threat of relegation however, won't be much of a concern

this season, since it is believed there won't be any, but two clubs will still be promoted from Division One to make next seasons top division a twelve team competition.

For Perth, it was a classy team performance led by sweeper Allan Pottier, defender Lucio Marinelli, and wonder winger Dale Wingell who nearly didn't play due to a heavy dose of

PREMIER LEAGUE

SWAN IC	2	Perth S.C.	4
Olympic Kingsway	0	Bayswater Panthers	2
Western Knights	0	Inglewood Falcons	1
Spearwood Dal	2	Sorrento	1
Floreat Athena	2	Stirling Macedonia	3

RESERVES

Swan IC	2	Perth S.C.	2
Olympic Kingsway	0	Bayswater Panthers	1
Western Knights	3	Inglewood Falcons	1
Spearwood Dal	3	Sorrento	1

UNDER 18

SWAN IC	0	Perth S.C.	1
Olympic Kingsway	0	Bayswater Panthers	3
Western Knights	3	Inglewood Falcons	1
Spearwood Dal	2	Sorrento	5

DIVISION ONE

Perth City	2	Bassendean Cale	2
Joondalup City	4	Ashfield-Bunbury	2
Dianella WE	7	North Lake Espanol	2
Balcatta	3	Cockburn United	1
Fremantle City	3	Morley Windmills	2
Rockingham City	0	Southside United	1

DIVISION TWO

Queens Park	2	Balga	1
Wanneroo City	1	Melville Corinthians	0
University	0	Stirling Vardar	1
Western Yugal	3	Armadale Park	3

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Stirling	11	9	1	1	25	9	28
Bayswater	11	9	0	2	29	8	27
Inglewood	11	7	2	2	21	14	23
Perth	11	7	1	3	23	15	22
Spearwood	11	7	0	4	21	18	21
Floreat	11	3	4	4	19	21	13
Sorrento	11	3	1	7	13	16	10
W/Knights	11	1	2	8	11	20	5
Kingsway	11	1	2	8	13	33	5
Swan IC	11	1	1	9	11	30	4

LEADING SCORERS

19 Robbie Perruzza	Bayswater
7 Eugen Singorzan	Western Knights
7 Dale Wingell	Perth
7 Vas Kalageracos	Floreat
7 Peter Coci	Perth
6 Rob Milevski	Stirling
5 Peter Murphy	Stirling Mace
5 Damien Scali	Swan IC
5 Norrie Sutton	Inglewood Falcons
4 Michael Mirco	Spearwood



Lucio Marinelli: Played his part in a classy performance by Perth.

the flu.

Tom Maras was to have stopped playing for a short break last week before commencing training with his new club Perth Glory in August.

But the state 'keeper agreed to front up once more while Vince Matassa works at regaining match fitness after apparently struggling to play first team football in England for well over four months.

Surprisingly, Swan started the game without their regular goalkeeper Luka Nicora, and instead introduced Corry Hugo who as it turned out performed quite competently.

Hugo will be travelling with the WA Schoolboys team to the Australian Championships in early August.

He was blameless however, for Perth's 12th minute opening goal when Wingell prised open the Swan rearguard with a superb ball to Ray Marinovic who sweetly volleyed the ball home from 20 metres.

Seven minutes later, Marinovic was again on target with a forceful header to a Peter Coci cross, but this time Hugo was equal to it. Swan suffered a further setback in the 33rd minute when they lost midfielder Damien Scali with a bad knock to the side of the head.

They did have an

equalising chance three minutes later when Karl Atley scooped a free-kick over the bar from six metres, but it was Perth who found the net four minutes before the break when a Wingell free-kick from the right took forever to be cleared, and Coci pounced to bulge the net from close range.

Swan was provided with a glimmer of hope in the opening seconds of the second-half when Ori Colli reduced the deficit with a well taken strike, but the visitors restored their two goal advantage eight minutes later with one of the best goals of the season when a throw from Marinelli to Marinovic was then laid off perfectly to young Vince Tana who released a beautifully struck dipping rocket from 25 metres into the roof of the net.

But the Swan side refused to capitulate and in fact scored a second goal in the 70th minute when Craig Scali was successful in hitting the mark with another long range effort.

But before their euphoria subsided, Perth received a penalty one minute later,

after Darren Freeman inflicted a clumsy tackle from behind on Coci.

Pottier made no mistake with the spot-kick, and the victory kept Perth in fourth place.

BAYSWATER BACK ON TRACK

After a panicky fortnight, Bayswater rebounded into the winners ring with a 2-0 triumph over Olympic Kingsway at Kingsway Reserve, the game also saw scoring sensation Robert Perruzza notch up his 19th goal in 11 games.

It came in the 36th minute out of a deep Alan MacKenzie free-kick that Perruzza met with a forceful and accurate header.

The Panthers could have gone a goal up after 20 minutes when Paul McVittie shot accurately from the edge of the box, but Ricky Davis was ideally placed to clear the danger off the line.

Six minutes later, McVittie cleared the way for Jason Van Rooy to strike, but the pacey winger delivered his shot too high to cause any concern.

Kingsway's only real breakthrough possibility came in the 32nd minute when Claude Riberi had a goalbound drive deflected over the top. But the game was always going to be Bayswater's, the main reason being with Olympic's attack which is desperate for a key striker.

On the hour, the ball was seen rolling agonisingly along the Olympic goal-line with Perruzza watching in anticipation for it to enter the net, but it was eventually scooped away.

In the 78th minute, Kingsway lost any hope of gaining something from this match, when a scorching run from substitute Shane Fuhr was finished with a clever ball to Van Rooy who bulged the net from the corner of the box.

Meanwhile, Spearwood Dalmatinac kept in touch with the top four field with a 2-1 win over Sorrento. Derek Combe and Craig Rourke netted the Dalies goals while the Gulls could only eke out a single from Simon Harland.

In the Sunday game, Stirling Macedonia maintained their one point lead in the league standings after an emotion charged 3-2 victory over Floreat Athena at the Lake Monger Velodrome.

Doug Ithier put Floreat ahead after 23 minutes with a searching header from a John Carbone corner.

Stirling squandered an equalising chance in the 34th minute, when Steve Bourne drove a penalty onto an upright, after he was earlier brought down by goalkeeper John Xigas.

They eventually drew level three minutes before the break when Peter Murphy headed home a Dean Nicolaou corner.

With an hours play nearly gone, Macies took the lead in breathtaking fashion, when Bourne controlled an Alex Cummings pass with his chest, ran along the face of the box before thumping the ball into the net.

But Floreat made it 2-2 in the 84th minute when Taki Tzoganos shrugged off his marker Scott Clissold then centred to Veselin Zmukic who coolly smacked the ball home despite the close attention of a collection of defenders. The equaliser apparently didn't go down too well with one supporter who reportedly slid down the steep cycling embankment to confront linesman Mark Wareham. But it appears nothing came of the incident, since the spectator was next seen driving out of the ground.

Then, in the dying seconds and with a draw looming, Stirling called on one of their renowned last minute comebacks, when Bourne nipped in between two defenders before skilfully lobbing the ball accurately over Xigas for the winner.



Tom Maras: Perth's state keeper set for Glory.

CRIPPLED FALCONS FALL OVER LINE

Inglewood Falcons coach Paul Wormley was required to resurrect his playing career after a nine month spell, for their clash with strugglers Western Knights at Gwelup after experiencing a nightmare week of transfers, injuries and suspensions.

With regulars Martin Woodall, Ian Ballantyne, Ric Antunes and Gavin Tait all absent, Wormley was forced to call on not just himself, but a couple of youngsters from the lower leagues including Paul Di Carlo and Kevin Smith. Falcons defender Lou Collova, who officially announced his retirement last week, was even enticed back into an Inglewood shirt because of the decimation in numbers. For Smith, it was a day to remember, because after getting sent off in a reserve match, he then turned from villain to hero by providing the 67th minute cross for the only goal of the main

game.

In a match that failed to inspire, John Hunter released one of his typical left-foot thunderbolts on goal in the 15th minute, but Richard Gafton, who was making a comeback after a five week absence, executed a quality blocking save to deny the striker.

Inglewood suffered further injury worries in the 50th minute when Lee Crosby was stretchered off after a clash of heads with Ray Kastropil. But this setback did not prevent the Falcons from scoring when Smith set up Hunter to power home an unstoppable header.

The Knights only real equalising opportunity came five minutes from time when new signing Ivica Markovic and Kastropil both had shots scrambled off the line.



QUEENSLAND XXXX League



QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION Perry Park, Abbotsford Road, Mayne, Queensland 4006 Phone: (07) 3252-5327 Fax: (07) 3252-1137

WYNNUM KEEPS WINNIN' 'EM

BY GLENN DAVIS

Wynnum continued its charge towards the semi-finals with a hard fought 1-0 win against Easts in a disrupted round of Fourex League fixtures at the weekend.

Only three of the six matches were played as fixtures involving league leaders Brisbane City, Rochedale and Brisbane Lions were postponed with players away on State representative duties in Darwin.

However, from the three matches that went ahead, Wynnum grabbed a late goal to leapfrog into fourth place on the premiership ladder with a 1-0 win over Easts at Heath Park while Beenleigh slipped



striker Greg DiLosa and Damien Lunberg each bagged goals to topple North Star who remain destined for second division next season.

With only five games remaining, Easts will have to produce a Houdini act not to join North Star after a late goal from Geoff Maltby sank the home side.

Easts went into the match needing to win to maintain their slim hopes of avoiding relegation, but now appear certain to join North Star as they trial nearest rivals Grange Thistle by nine points.

Easts had several chances to kill off Wynnum in an even affair marred by blustery westerly winds.

The home side dominated play in the first half with striker Jason Poggi missing a relatively simple chance after just eight minutes when he rifled a shot over the crossbar from inside the area with only Wynnum keeper Kevin Tatton to beat.

Tatton was again called

upon to pull off a save diving low to his left off a 25 metre strike from Willie Carter while an appeal for a penalty on 33 minutes was turned down for an alleged hand ball against Wynnum's Malcolm Van Baste.

Wynnum were not without their chances in the first half when a glancing header from Scottish import Jamie MacPherson sailed side of the upright a minute later off a Ben Wood cross.

Poggi again was cursing a missed opportunity five minutes from the break when he latched onto a perfect pass from midfielder Gary McPhee only to graze the crossbar with his attempt again with only Tatton to beat.

Wynnum, who attempted to

MacPherson's attempt to shoot off a Paul Wilkins cross to the near post rebounded to Maltby to tap in from close range for the only goal of the match.



Marco Van Baste: We couldn't find a pic of Wynnum's Malcolm Van Baste so we've printed one of his illustrious Dutch name-sake instead.



spray the ball around in the windy conditions, grafted their way back into the game after the break.

The Wolves went close to breaking the deadlock on 60 minutes when another Wood cross from the right saw Easts keeper Robbie Harrison pull off a great diving save low to his left off a strong MacPherson header.

Easts' Tim McAuliffe almost sprung a surprise with a 25 metre strike against the run of play which Tatton in the Wynnum goal did well to tip wide of the upright.

However, the game breaker eventually fell the visitor's way on 72 minutes when



to fifth after going down 2-0 to Pine Rivers.

In the other clash, Grange Thistle skipped clear of the relegation zone with an uninspiring 2-1 win over cellar dwellers North Star.

Beenleigh, who looked certain semi final contenders last month, are now feeling the pressure to hold onto fifth spot after losing for the fifth consecutive time against the much improved Pine Rivers.

Pine Rivers, who were missing State striker Clayton Koch, scorer of 12 goals this season, gave another polished display with goals from John Preston and Adam Kinsella.

Grange Thistle's lanky

DIVISION XXXX LEAGUE This Week's Matches...

Friday, July 5

Beenleigh
North Star

v Coalstar
v Rochedale

Chris Green Park
O'Callaghan Park

8.30pm
8.30pm

Sunday, July 7

Brisbane Lions
Taringa Rovers
Wynnum
Brisbane City

v Pine Rivers
v Nerang
v Grange Thistle
v Eastern Suburbs

Lions Stadium
Jack Speare Park
Carmichael Park
Spencer Park

2.45pm
2.45pm
2.45pm
2.45pm

QUEENSLAND XXXX LEAGUE

Coalstars P/P Brisbane P/P
Eastern Suburbs 0 Wynnum District 1
Grange Thistle 2 North Star 1
Rochedale Rovers P/P Taringa Rovers P/P
Nerang Soccer Club P/P Brisbane Lions P/P
Pine Rivers United 2 Beenleigh 0

TABLE

Brisbane Lions	16	12	1	4	40	19	37
Brisbane City	16	12	1	3	35	15	37
Rochedale Rovers	16	10	3	3	54	18	33
Wynnum District	18	9	3	6	31	27	30
Beenleigh	17	9	1	7	19	22	28
Taringa Rovers	17	7	3	7	38	28	24
Pine Rivers United	17	7	1	9	33	36	22
Nerang Soccer Club	16	6	3	7	29	28	21
Grange Thistle	17	6	3	8	22	45	21
Coalstars	16	6	1	9	24	26	19
Eastern Suburbs	17	3	3	11	18	36	12
North Star	17	1	1	15	13	56	4

DIVISION TWO

Mount Gravatt 4 Willowburn 0
St Albans 4 The Gap 2
Rocklea United 0 Inala City United 3
Ipswich St Helens Utd 0 Logan City Kings 3
Olympic United 3 Acacia Ridge 0
Capalaba S & Rec 2 Albany Creek Exc 0

TABLE

Olympic United	17	12	3	2	49	24	39
Rocklea United	17	11	3	3	42	19	36
Mount Gravatt	18	8	5	5	39	31	29
St Albans	17	8	3	6	39	32	27
Inala City United	17	9	0	8	38	36	27
Albany Creek Exc	17	6	4	7	33	42	22
The Gap	17	6	3	8	23	32	21
Acacia Ridge	16	6	2	8	27	29	20
Logan City Kings	15	5	3	7	27	25	18
Capalaba S & Rec	17	4	5	7	35	40	18
Ipswich St Helens Utd	18	4	2	12	16	44	14
Willowburn	16	3	4	9	18	32	13

DIVISION THREE

Western Suburbs 0 Darral United 3
Newmarket 1 Slacks Creek 2
Mitchelton 4 University of Qld 0
Souths United 2 Redlands United 0
Anderley Recreation 4 Clairvaux SC Inc 0
Goodna & Districts 2 Latrobe Athletic 2

TABLE

Slacks Creek	17	14	2	1	63	8	44
Newmarket	17	12	2	3	33	16	38
Mitchelton	17	12	1	4	56	19	37
University of Qld	17	8	3	6	38	27	27
Souths United	17	7	5	5	39	22	26
Redlands United	17	8	2	7	38	25	26
Darral United	17	6	5	6	36	36	23
Goodna & Districts	17	5	6	6	25	24	21
Latrobe Athletic	17	5	3	9	36	47	18
Anderley Recreation	17	4	4	9	27	40	16
Clairvaux SC Inc	17	2	1	14	25	63	7
Western Suburbs	17	2	0	15	12	101	6

DIVISION FOUR

Browns Plains 5 Ipswich City 1
Moggill United 2 Southside Eagles 1
Brothers United 5 Greenbank 2
North Pine United 3 Samford 0
Redcliffe City 1 South Star 1
Bayside United 2 Pine Hills 0

TABLE

South Star	16	13	1	2	52	14	40
Moggill United	16	12	1	3	42	11	37
Bayside United	17	11	1	5	44	23	34
North Pine United	17	10	2	5	35	23	32
Southside Eagles	16	9	3	4	33	20	30
Brothers United	17	9	2	6	41	36	29
Redcliffe City	17	7	5	5	41	38	26
Samford	17	6	3	8	35	26	21
Pine Hills	17	5	1	11	21	44	16
Greenbank	17	2	2	13	32	65	8
Ipswich City	17	2	2	13	14	56	8
Browns Plains	16	2	1	13	19	53	7

Northem New South Wales

NBN FIRST DIVISION	
Deloraine Eagles	4
Westy Workers Bluebells	1
Highfields	3
Broadmeadow Magic	2
Hamilton Warriors	1
Pasminco Roosters	0
Weston Workers Bears	1
Maitland Magpies	1
Cessnock Hornets	0
Wallsend Red Devils	0

RESERVE GRADE	
Deloraine Eagles	2
Westy Workers Bluebells	0
Highfields	1
Broadmeadow Magic	4
Hamilton Warriors	4
Pasminco Roosters	1
Weston Workers Bears	1
Maitland Magpies	2
Cessnock Hornets	1
Wallsend Red Devils	2

TOOHEYS FIRST GRADE	
Singleton Strikers	1
Belmont-Swansea	2
Belmont Tigers	0
South Cardiff Gunners	6
Budgewoi Budgies	1
Beresfield United	4
Thornton Park	2
Toronto-Awaba	0
Stockton Sharks	3
Lambton Jaffas	0
Manning Mustangs	4
Dudley-Redhead Utd	4

TOOHEYS RESERVE GRADE	
Singleton Strikers	3
Belmont-Swansea	2
Belmont Tigers	1
South Cardiff Gunners	2
Budgewoi Budgies	2
Beresfield United	2
Thornton Park	3
Toronto-Awaba	2
Stockton Sharks	0
Lambton Jaffas	3
Manning Mustangs	3
Dudley-Redhead Utd	5

NBN FIRST GRADE						
P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Weston Workers Bears	14	11	3	0	42	15 36
Highfields Wolves	13	10	2	1	46	8 32
Hamilton Warriors	13	9	1	3	30	19 28
Wallsend Red Devils	14	8	2	4	23	11 26
Deloraine Eagles	13	7	1	5	24	12 22
Westy Workers B	14	5	2	7	24	30 17
Broadmeadow Magic	13	4	1	8	25	42 13
Maitland Magpies	13	2	2	9	18	31 8
Cessnock Hornets	13	1	3	9	11	31 6
Pasminco Roosters	14	1	1	12	9	53 4

MAGIC STINGS THE HORNETS

BY DANE SKAFTE

Broadmeadow Magic scored a convincing 2-0 win over Cessnock Hornets last Sunday in the NBN League at Adamstown Oval.

Broadmeadow outplayed the Hornets in the first half and were unlucky not to go to the break with a bigger lead, but Cessnock came back with an improved display in the second half but failed to penetrate the Magic defence.

Magic's coach John Beleff believed his side did more than enough to have won the game by a greater margin than two goals. "I thought we played quite well in the first half and we created plenty of opportunities.

"Today went well especially with several players out with the flu our strikers really showed plenty of commitment. We signed 21 year old Tony Parezanovic up last week from Adamstown and he played well up front and scored the second goal.

Beleff agreed that Broadmeadow's combination was a telling factor in the outcome. "Our defence made it very difficult for the Cessnock strikers who always looked dangerous when they were near the ball. I am happy

that we haven't conceded a goal for the last two weeks."

Magic opened the books in the twenty fifth minute after midfielder Shane Locke was fouled on the edge of the area. Goramsimic made no mistake with his right-footed shot knocking a ball over Cessnock keeper Michael Gates to give Magic the lead.

Cessnock had a golden opportunity just before the halftime break when Chris Benna beat several players but his shot went wide of the goal.

Broadmeadow sealed the match eight minutes into the second half after a goalmouth scramble saw new recruit Parezanovic flick a ball past the Cessnock's keeper.

Cessnock's coach John Bond was happy with the way his team played despite the loss "I thought we created several chances in the second half but when you are two goals down it is hard to come back.

We played four under 16 players today Michael (Gates) performed well in goal for us while Matthew Coleman played well up front."

*In the clash of the round this Friday night at Adamstown Oval Broadmeadow Magic take on Hamilton Warriors which will be crucial for both sides leading up towards the semi finals.

"Wolves win the Arctic Cup"

BY DANE SKAFTE

Highfields Wolves showed outstanding form to beat Wallsend Devils 1-0 last Wednesday night in the Arctic Cup Final which was played at Breakers Stadium.

The Wolves dominated the Devils during the first half and had at least six clear scoring chances but only found the net on one occasion.

Highfields striker Michael Williams looked very dangerous when he was near the ball and created several opportunities but failed to find the right directions near the target.

The Wolves opened the scoring in the 19th minute after Brett MacAuley was brought down in the area by big Wallsend defender Michael Nechakoski.

Captain Wayne Bailey made no mistake with his penalty kick sending the Wallsend keeper the wrong way.

The Devils best opportunity came four minutes into the second half after a build up by the midfield found David Fahey who chipped a ball to Mark Lewis on the edge of the goal area. But Lewis failed to get a touch on the ball.

Wallsend continued to push forward and were awarded a free kick outside the area but the shot went off John Govan's head and over the bar.

Highfields had a golden chance in the 50th minute after Adam Dearing beat several defenders but his right footed shot went wide of the post.

Wolves coach Steve Bland was very pleased with his

three goals in the first half.

"The conditions started to deteriorate due to the rain which made it hard for both sides."

Bland said that his side pulled together for the final result.

"Wallsend are always a difficult side to beat at home. I was very happy with the way that captain Wayne Bailey and Adam Dearing played.

"I thought that we passed

Wolves Player Parade



Brett McCauley

the ball a lot better than what they (Wallsend) did.

"If Ty Turner had put away his chances the score could have been much greater."

Wallsend coach Richard Hartley was pleased with the way the boys played in the second half.

"We created more chances and applied more pressure.

"I thought that Kevin Helmers had an outstanding

game for us especially when he is only 17 years old."

In the other finals: Marks Point defeated Mayfield United 1-0 in the district champions Mount View defeated Glendale High 2-1 in the Hunter Region Boys Federation Cup.

West Wallsend proved too strong for Swansea beating them 1-0 in the Hunter Region Girls Rudy Roth Cup.

Wolves Player Parade



Ty Turner

side's first half display.

"We played quite well and we should have scored two or

ILLAWARRA

PREMIER LEAGUE

BY DEAN SIMPSON

Lysaghts' bubble has finally burst — the competition leaders suffering their first loss of the Illawarra Premier league season on Saturday.

Two goals from midfielder Julio Miranda gave Wollongong Olympic an upset 2-1 win at Lysaghts Oval to end Lysaghts' 11-match undefeated run this season.

Miranda scored both goals in the first half to set up his team's first win in five matches.

Striker John Danzo pulled a goal back for Lysaghts in the second half but his team couldn't crack the Olympic defence despite constant pressure.

Lysaghts still lead the competition, although the margin has been cut to six points after Port Kembla's 4-2 win over Dapto on Sunday.

Illawarra's number one soccer ground is out of action until late August. The Wollongong Sports Ground Trust has cancelled all fixtures on the deteriorating surface at Brandon Park.

Constant use over the past few seasons, in addition to recent wet weather, has affected the surface.

It is a quagmire in wet weather and bumpy and barren in dry weather.

Trust president Peter Bolt said the ground needed time to repair itself for the Illawarra Soccer Association final series in September and the start of the National Soccer League season in October.

The ground is used all year round, with the Wolves in summer and the ISA and Illawarra Lions in winter.

The surface for last week's Illawarra Premier League match between Lysaghts and Port Kembla drew criticism from Lysaghts coach Casey de Bruin.

Coniston are staging a mid-season comeback which has coincided with a change of coach. Having languished at the bottom of the table for most of the first round, Coniston have been unbeaten in their past five games, drawing three then winning their past two.

They picked up another three valuable points at the weekend with a shock 2-0 win over Bulli at Balls Paddock.

Veteran striker Dean Gardiner scored both goals in the 2-0 win.

New coach Harry Sattin has inspired the side to play more attacking football and the players have responded.

Sattin took over following the 4-0 defeat to Dapto and has an undefeated record.

Dapto coach Barney King must have walked under a ladder or crossed paths with a black cat leading up to Sunday's game against Port Kembla.

Four players in his squad pulled out through a variety of reasons, ranging from falling off a roof, having glandular fever or being injured from a brick wall collapsing.

Graeme Fletcher fell off a roof at work and suffered knee and groin injuries which may keep him out for the season, striker Frank Vlaovic had a wall fall on him at work, requiring stitches to his head, Frank Keting has major knee ligament damage and Craig Thompson has glandular fever.

To compound the situation, Dapto lost the game 4-2 and had winger Mark Borg sent off.

In an ironic sidelight to Sunday's game, Port Kembla striker Bill Kampas was announced man of the match five minutes from fulltime, but was sent off a couple of minutes later after his tussle with Borg.

Port Kembla's new striker Justyn Roberts thought he was just winded when he was replaced by coach Adrian Alston in the big game against Lysaghts two weeks ago.

He was still finding it difficult to breathe the next day and a visit to the hospital revealed a broken rib, clean through.

Roberts, who signed three weeks ago from Wollongong Olympic, missed Sunday's match and doctors have warned him to rest for another couple of weeks.



Shane Locke: Fouled on the edge of the box, as a result of which Magic scored.



NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

SUPER LEAGUE		1st	U/21
Central Coast v Adamstown Rosebud		2-2	1-2
Sutherland Sharks v Bankstown City Lions		1-0	5-0
Blacktown City v St. George Saints		1-1	5-0
Macarthur Rams v Illawarra Lions		0-1	6-0
Parramatta Eagles v Canterbury Berries		1-1	4-1
Rockdale City Suns v Bonnyrigg WE		0-3	2-3
Leichhardt Tigers v Warringah Dolphins		0-0	2-1

DIVISION ONE		1st	U/21	U/18
Fairfield Bulls v Stanmore Hawks		1-4	2-1	1-3
Mt Pritchard v Penrith Panthers		3-1	0-0	1-0
Ryde City v Auburn United		8-0	2-1	3-0
Belmore Hercules v St. Sth Minotaurs		3-2	1-4	1-0
Dulwich Hill v West Wanderers		2-3	1-3	0-3
Mt Druitt Town R v Sydney Cosmos		1-6	1-1	0-3
Bathurst '75 v Hills United		1-1	0-3	0-0
Stanmore Hawks v West Wanderers		0-0	2-1	0-0

DIVISION TWO		1st	U/21	U/18
Greystanes v Trasandinos		3-1	0-0	1-3
Granville Greenisland v Liverpool City		0-5	0-8	0-2
University of NSW v Concord Juniors		2-2	4-3	8-0
Prairiewood United v Parramatta City		1-1	0-1	2-5
AC United v Hurstville		4-3	2-1	3-0
Sydney District v Alexandria Warriors		1-1	1-1	0-4

DIVISION THREE		1st	2nd
Glebe Wanderers v Moorebank Sports		4-3	1-0
Gladesville United v St. John's Park		4-1	1-0
Colo Colo v Earlwood Hermes		5-1	1-2
Prospect United v The Wanderers		1-2	1-2
Sporting SCC v Hawkesbury City		1-2	3-1
White City v Hakoah		0-2	6-1

DIVISION FOUR		1st	2nd
Canley Vale v Fairfield Kings		3-1	4-1
Balmain v Fraser Park		2-3	2-5
Arncliffe Scots v CSI Schofields		2-1	1-1
Lithgow Workmen v Angels Liverpool Utd		2-1	1-2
Marrickville Reds v St. Joseph's		2-0	0-2
Springwood v Sydney University		1-0	0-4

DIVISION FIVE		1st	2nd
Mascot Kings v Gladesville Hornsby		2-2	3-1
Nepean Districts v Camden		2-2	3-3
United Eagles v Maroubra United		0-1	0-4
AVA United v Kosciusko		2-8	0-2

DIVISION SIX		1st	2nd
Racing v Queens Park		5-2	2-0
NSW Police v Bossy		0-0	4-1

DIVISION ONE — WOMEN'S		1st	2nd
NSW ITC/Penrith v Blacktown City		2-0	1-2
Macquarie District v Gladesville Raven		0-1	2-6
Northern NSW ITC v Sutherland Shire		0-0	N/A
UWS Macarthur v Marconi		1-1	0-1
St. George v Sydney Cosmos		4-1	0-2

DIVISION TWO		1st	2nd
Moorebank (1) v Macarthur (1)		P/P	
Bathurst v Illawarra Lions		1-0	
Sydney Cosmos v Sydney United		4-0	
University of NSW v Liverpool Olympic		3-0	
Moorebank (2) v Penrith Panthers		1-2	
St. George Association v Macarthur (2)		21-1	

1996 Waratah (Knock Out) Cup

— Round 5

16 WINNERS FROM ROUND 4

Warringah Dolphins 1 Blacktown City 1 AET
Wednesday June 19 Sydney Football Stadium
Glebe Wanderers v Hills United
Wednesday July 10 St George Stadium 6.30pm
Ryde City v Parramatta Eagles
Wednesday July 3 Melita Stadium 8.15pm
Stammore Hawks v Bathurst '75
Wednesday July 3 Francis Park 8.15pm
Auburn United v Sydney Cosmos
Wednesday July 3 Melita Stadium 6.30pm
Canterbury Marrickville v Central Coast
Wednesday July 10 St George 8.15pm
Macarthur Rams v Rockdale City
Wednesday July 17 St George Stadium 6.30pm
Sutherland Shire v Bankstown City Lions
Wednesday July 17 St George Stadium 8.15pm

Depleted Demons surprise the Saints

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS 1

Steve Berry (31)

ST GEORGE 1

Steve Karavatsakis (60)

BY BOB BROOKS

Illness and injury devastated Blacktown City Demons for their game against St George at the Gabbie Stadium on Saturday night. Nevertheless the weakened home side held the highly fancied visitors to a 1-1 draw.

To add to this disruption reports have reached the Demons camp about one of

The second half opened brightly for Blacktown as Boudaher set up Xuereb. With only the goalie to beat he screwed his shot wide.

The Saints hit back and it took the foot of John Crawley to stop a Steve Karavatsakis shot.

14 minutes in, Berry put in a thunderous shot that rocketed away into the night. A minute later the Saints were back on level terms.

Karavatsakis made no mistake this time from a

superb through ball which split the Demons defence.

Baillie put the visitors goal in danger with a well taken header from a Con Paradisis corner but his attempt went over the top.

It was Baillie who rammed in a 25 metre shot in the 82nd minute which rattled the crossbar with the keeper well beaten. In the dying seconds Paradisis supplied a well measured pass for Baillie whose shot finished up in the side netting.



Tony Kostadinovski: Was kept busy by the Demons attackers at the Gabbie Stadium on Saturday night.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 21

SATURDAY JULY 6

Canterbury Marrickville v Macarthur Rams

Serbian Centre, 6.00pm

SUNDAY JULY 7

Adamstown Rosebud v Rockdale City Suns

Adamstown Oval, 3.00pm

St George Saints v Central Coast

St George Stadium, 3.00pm

Illawarra Lions v Blacktown City Demons

N/A

Warringah Dolphins v Parramatta Eagles

Cromer Park, 3.00pm

Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Sutherland Sharks

Serbian Centre, 3.00pm

Bankstown City Lions v Leichhardt Tigers

Jensen Park, 3.00pm

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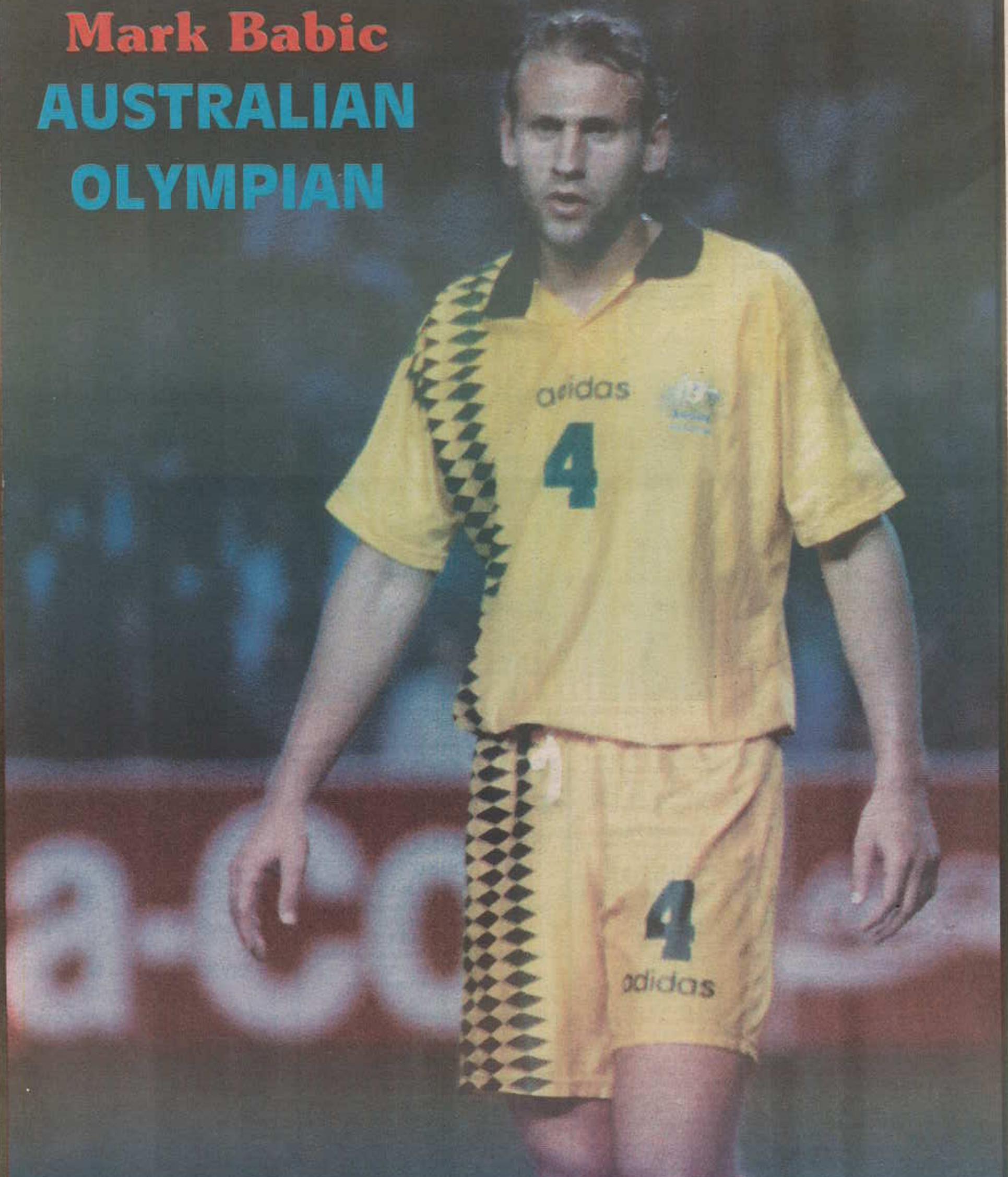
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(Higher rate applies with mobile and public phones)

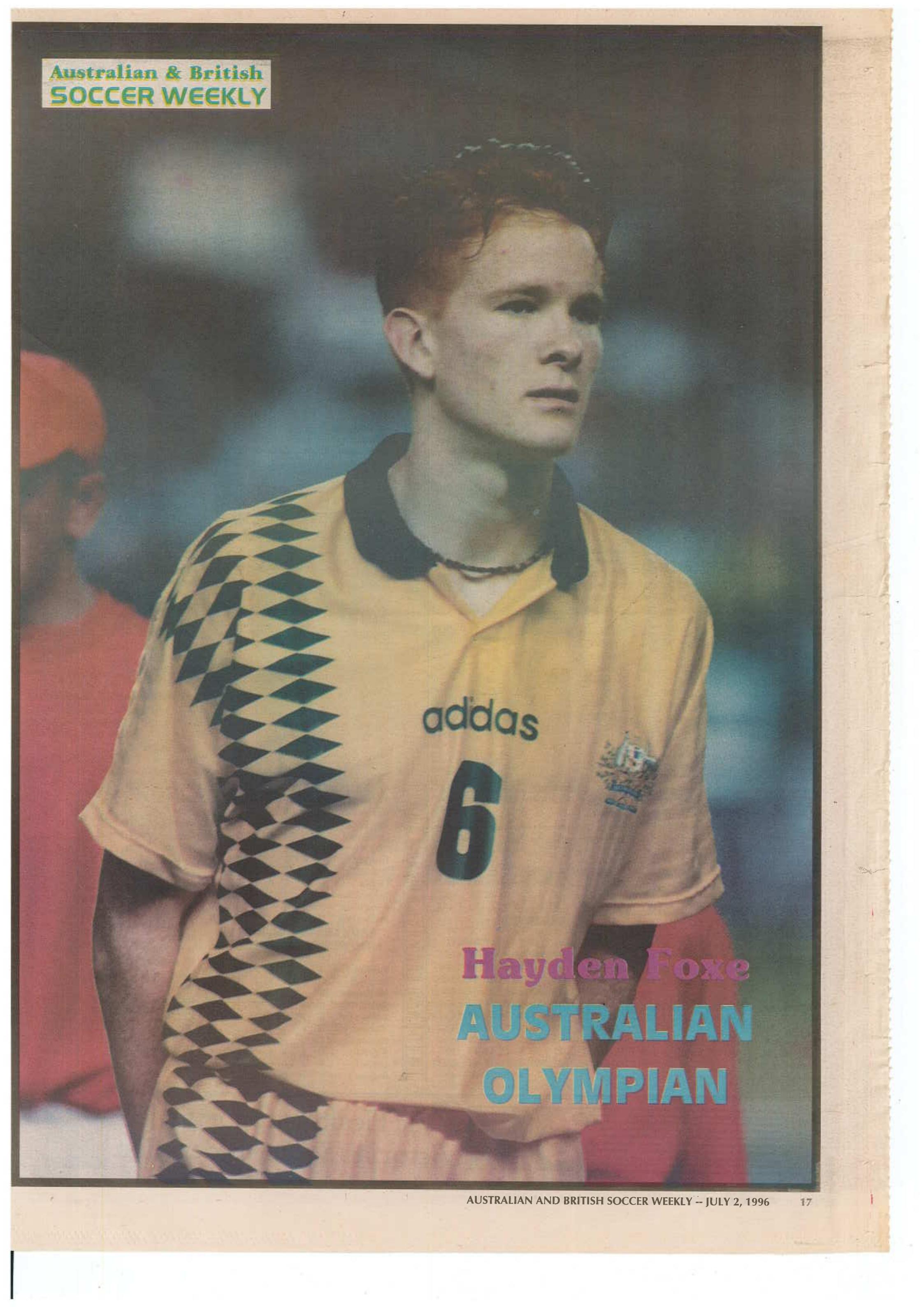
SUPER LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sutherland Sharks	7	4	3	0	9	3	15
Parramatta Eagles	6	3	3	0	7	2	12
Illawarra Lions	6	4	0	2	15	12	12
Leichhardt Tigers	7	3	3	1	9	9	12
St George Saints	6	3	2	1	10	5	11
Bonnyrigg W/Eagle	7	3	1	3	14	10	10
Macarthur Rams	6	3					

Mark Babic
**AUSTRALIAN
OLYMPIAN**





adidas

6

Hayden Foxe
**AUSTRALIAN
OLYMPIAN**



Victorian Ladders



PREMIER LEAGUE LADDER

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sunshine GX	19	13	3	3	32	19	42
Bentleigh Green	19	13	2	4	41	21	41
Heidelberg Utd	19	12	4	3	44	22	40
Altona Gate	19	12	1	6	39	22	37
Thomastown Zeb.	19	11	3	5	38	25	36
Green Gully	19	7	8	4	30	24	29
Port Melbourne	19	7	7	5	42	34	28
Bulleen	19	7	6	6	29	25	27
North Geelong	19	7	4	8	24	30	25
Box Hill Inter	19	5	4	10	24	39	19
Fawkner	19	3	4	12	18	37	13
St Albans	19	3	3	13	20	40	12
Albion	19	2	5	12	16	35	11
Springvale City	19	3	2	14	21	45	11

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Heidelberg Utd	19	14	0	5	59	36	42
Thomastown	18	12	2	4	45	18	38
Port Melbourne	19	11	4	4	41	23	37
Bulleen	18	10	2	6	48	27	32
Bentleigh Green	17	10	2	5	44	35	32
Sunshine G.X.	19	7	8	4	32	28	29
Green Gully	18	7	4	7	34	30	25
Fawkner	19	7	4	8	31	43	25
Altona Gate	19	7	2	10	40	44	23
Springvale City	18	5	5	8	41	38	20
Box Hill Inter	18	5	5	8	29	37	20
Albion	19	6	1	12	31	59	19
St Albans	18	3	6	9	20	34	15
North Geelong	19	2	1	16	19	62	7

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sp White Eagles	15	10	2	3	33	13	32
Preston Lions	15	8	5	2	25	10	29
Lalor Utd	15	8	4	3	39	22	28
West Suburbs	15	7	5	3	17	10	26
Richmond	14	6	7	1	20	13	25
Kings City	15	6	7	2	17	13	25
C'don City Dons	15	6	5	4	27	17	23
Werribee City	13	6	1	8	22	20	19
Moorabbin City	14	5	4	5	17	18	19
Don'ster Rovers	15	4	6	5	18	21	18
Westgate	15	4	4	7	27	31	16
Northcote City	14	2	5	7	11	22	11
Broadmeadows	14	2	1	11	13	40	7
Glen Eira City	15	0	2	13	9	45	2

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Preston	2	10	0	2	32	12	30
Werribee City	14	8	3	3	24	18	27
Croydon City	15	9	2	4	35	14	29
Moorabbin City	13	9	2	2	33	12	29
Don'ster Rovers	15	9	1	5	36	18	28
Richmond	13	7	3	3	22	14	24
Sp White Eagles	15	7	1	7	42	29	22
Kings City	13	6	3	6	33	25	21
Lalor United	15	6	1	8	32	27	19
West Suburbs	13	5	1	7	25	31	16
Glen Eira City	15	3	1	11	16	44	10
Northcote City	14	3	1	10	14	49	10
Westgate	13	3	0	10	11	43	9
Broadmeadows	13	2	1	10	10	32	7

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Westvale	15	11	2	2	61	13	35
Sth Dandenong	15	10	2	3	35	17	32
Altona East	15	9	4	2	32	19	31
Altona City	15	8	2	5	27	14	26
Waverley City	15	6	4	5	30	31	22
Frankston Pines	15	5	6	4	24	22	21
Knox City	15	5	5	5	21	28	20
Ess Brun Royals	15	4	6	16	18	18	
Regent Bulla	15	3	7	5	11	18	16
East Richmond	14	4	3	7	21	25	15
Nunawading City	13	3	5	7	18	37	14
Bell Park	14	3	3	8	17	25	12

FIRSTS

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Mooroobark	15	3	3	9	15	30	12
Oakland	15	1	6	8	16	45	9
Frankston Pines	15	12	1	2	34	13	27
Waverley City	13	11	0	4	52	25	33
Altona City	15	10	0	5	41	24	30
Ess Brun Royals	15	9	2	4	33	16	29
Regent Bulla	15	8	0	7	33	37	24
East Richmond	14	6	3	5	24	20	21
Westvale	15	6	3	6	25	24	21
Mooroobark	15	5	5	5	25	31	20
Oakland	15	6	0	9	31	33	16
Knox City	15	5	2	8	29	35	17
Altona East	15	4	3	8	23	31	15
Nunawading City	15	4	1	10	26	43	15
Sth Dandenong	15	4	1	10	25	42	13
Bell Park	14	2	3	9	19	46	9



FIRSTS

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A</th
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DIABETES
AUSTRALIA
VICTORIA



PREMIER LEAGUE (Round 16)

STATE ONE

SATURDAY, 6TH JULY

Northcote City	v	Glen Eira City
Moorabbin City	v	Preston Lions
Lalor Utd	v	Croydon City
Kingston City	v	Werribee City
Western Suburbs	v	Br'meadows City

STATE TWO

SATURDAY, 6TH JULY

Ess Brunswick Royals	v	Frankston Pines
East Richmond	v	Nunawading City
Oakleigh	v	Bell Park
Sth. Dandenong	v	Altona East
Mooroolbark	v	Regent-Bulla

STATE THREE

SATURDAY, 6TH JULY

Sth Caulfield	v	Melbourne City
Diamond Valley Utd	v	Keilor Eagles
Frankston	v	Chelsea
Cranbourne	v	Pascoe Vale
Sth Werribee	v	Clifton Hill
Ringwood City	v	Banyule City
Fitzroy City	v	Sth Springvale

STATE FOUR

SATURDAY, 4TH JULY

Sandringham City	v	Yarraville
Sunbury Utd	v	Lalor
Williamstown	v	Corio
Geelong	v	Langwarrin
Nth. Coburg Utd	v	Monbulk
Seaford Utd	v	Stonnington City
Sunshine Heights	v	Moreland City

PROVISIONAL 1

SATURDAY, 6TH JULY

Ballarat	v	Doveton
Knox Park	v	Old Scotch/Hawt
Keysborough	v	Geelong Rangers
Melton	v	Nth Sunshine
S'vale Condors	v	Glenroy
Heidelberg City	v	Mornington
Mitcham Utd	v	Sth Wantima

PROVISIONAL 2

SATURDAY, 6TH JULY

Brandon Park	v	Dandenong
Braeside Utd	v	Nth Glenroy
Croxtion	v	East Nun. Eagles
Endeavour Utd	v	Brunswick City
Meadow Park	v	Hampton Park Utd
Sth Yarra	v	Berwick City
Hoppers Crossing	v	Lyndale Utd

PROVISIONAL 3 — METROPOLITAN

SATURDAY, 6TH JULY

Ashburton	v	Monash Uni
Uni Melb Blues	v	Br'meadows Utd
Elwood City	v	Keilor Utd
T'stowe Eagles	v	Melb Uni Rangers
Riversdale	v	Parkmore
Newb/Yelloum	v	Ringwood Rovers

PROVISIONAL 3 — SOUTHEAST/CENTRAL

SUNDAY, 7TH JULY

Cam. Gr. Old Boys	v	Collingwood City
Wav. Wanderers	v	East Kew
Thornbury	v	Yarra Utd
Flem. Falcons	v	Endeavour Hills
Noble Park	v	Nth Caulfield
Ivanhoe Utd	v	Oakleigh Utd

PROVISIONAL 3 — NORTH/WEST

SUNDAY, 7TH JULY

Darebin Utd	v	Diamond Valley
West Preston	v	Keon Park
Upfield	v	Latrobe Uni
Sydenham Park	v	Mill Park
Sunshine Park	v	Nth Reservoir
Whittlesea Utd	v	Northern Utd

TACKLE DIABETES

FAWKNER 1
NTH GEELONG 0
BY NICHOLAS TZAFERIS

A new look Fawkner Blues featuring A-League stars Ollie Podeljak and Brian Bothwell moved clear of the relegation zone after a narrow win over North Geelong.

The decisive goal was struck in the 73rd minute by Frank Tramontana who made the most of enterprise lead up work from Podeljak.

Most of the match provided little in terms of action until the dying minutes which were played at helter-skelter pace.

The last five minutes saw both teams attack frenetically with Joey Didulica forced into saves from Bothwell and Michael Branov. At the opposing end, Robbie Cosic had a 92nd minute shot cleared off the line while Ante Skoko smashed his shot against the crossbar with the rebound.

North Geelong coach, Steve Ridojevic, who conceded his side is not a finals prospect, was disappointed they failed to effectively utilise the numerous set pieces they were awarded.

"I was disappointed that too often we didn't make use of our free kicks."

"I reckon we had half a dozen free kicks around the box and we just wasted those," Ridojevic said.

Blues: Beattie, Tramontana, Schipano, Branov, Bothwell, O. Podeljak (Stevanovic), Kuzman, Ferla, Stergiopoulos, Torteviski, Mihocic (De Santis).

Warriors: Joey Didulica, Bot, O'Sullivan, Medved, Cosic, Rajher, Deak, Dimovski, Skoko, Cervinski, John didulica.

Referee: Jim Markovski.

Votes: 3 — Branov

(Blues); 2 — Kuzman (Blues); 1 — Bot (Warriors).

BULLEEN 2
SPRINGVALE 1
BY DWYGH TUFFNELL

A goal eleven minutes from time gave Bulleen Lions a 2-1 win over a spirited Springvale City Vales on Sunday at the Veneto Club.

The much improved showing from the Vales will be little consolation as other results have seen them sink to the bottom of the table.

The Vales, however, were good enough for at least a point as they had the better of a Bulleen side, just playing for pride, for long periods of the game.

Lions top marksman, Dale

White, gave his side the lead in the 23rd minute when he smashed in a Gerry McAleer knock down from Anthony Grbac's cross.

Springvale were level six minutes later through their leading scorer David Grella sweeping home Eduardo Carlos' cross after Andy Vargas' superb through ball.

Vargas provided more mayhem in a six minute period after half time when the Vales were unlucky not to score at least once.

Another through ball to Carlos released the Vales striker only to be hauled down by Robert Liparoti. Referee Andrew Stacey waved away the protests of the bemused Vales players who felt that a strong punishment was called for.

The Vargas — Carlos combination worked again soon after but Jeff Olver had the better of a corner bound Carlos effort.

Olver was beaten though shortly after when Arma Rosa crossed but Andy Lancaster's shot was cleared off the line by Robert Stojcevski.

It was left to White again to give the Lions the lead when he ran on to Grbac's long ball out of defence and lob a stranded Steve Christov.

Lions: Olver, Valentic, Stojcevski, Slifkas, McAleer, White, Troise (Catalano), Grbac, Di Iorio, Everett, Liparoti.

Vales: Christov, Lettieri, Carlos (Dell 'Aquila), Campagna, Impellizzeri, D. Grella, Lancaster, Rosa (De La Plaza), A. Vargas, P. Grella (Razzi), R. Vargas.

Referee: Andrew Stacey.

Votes: 3 — A. Vargas

(Vales); 2 — White (Lions); 1 — R. Vargas (Vales).

SUNSHINE 0
ALBION 0
BY LUKE BUTTIGIEG

An undermanned Sunshine Georgies, saw their ladder lead over Bentleigh Greens shrink to just one point, after a scoreless draw with the Albion Redsox.

Playing without Chris Daglaras, Branko Bacak and Mark Aretis tested the Georgies depth, but Albion were also without Carlos Retre and Sonny Sevin.

Juan Nilo came close just before half time, but Sunshine's long kicking tactics and poor finishing prevented them from fully testing Redsox keeper Robert Brian.

In the final 30 minutes Albion attacked relentlessly, having the ball cleared off the goal line several times but like Sunshine they were

unable to finish off numerous chances.

Georgies: Wardle, Kanesoulis, Makris, Cassar, Dragicevic, Field, Nilo, Markovski (Vassallo), Tsirtsakis, De Ia Plaza (Spirer), De Bono.

Redsox: Brian, Gurpinar (Patsaman), Grinuad, L. Osman, Lucchesi, Wilson, Donnelly, Collins, Scrobogna (Carter), McMinimee, Geri.

Referee: Nestor Zachariadis.

Votes: 3 — Lucchesi (Redsox); 2 — Cassar (Georgies); 1 — Collins (Redsox).

GREEN GULLY 1
PT MELBOURNE 1
BY ZORAN MILENKOVSKI

A justifiable draw between the Green Gully Cavaliers and the Port Melbourne Sharks halted both sides progress to finals berth at Green Gully Reserve on Sunday.

The draw denied Frank Arok's Port Melbourne their seventh successive win although the result keeps both the Cavaliers and Sharks in touch with the top five.

A superb through ball in the 16th minute from Zlate Markovski found Vlad Babic in the box to score the opening goal of the game.

The equaliser arrived in the 26th minute when Alex Efstatios beat two Gully defenders to shoot. The effort was well blocked by 'keeper Chris Vella, but Alex Duric was there to finish.

Cavaliers: Vella, Chetcuti, Waddell, Cimino, Spink, Douglas, Nekeski, Lynch (Spirer), Markovski (Genovesi), Crodden, Babic.

Sharks: Kourtis, Dimitrelos (Komilios), Latinopoulos, Gotis, Palamaras, Bell, Papadopoulos, Hastie, Duric, Tsaltas, Efstatios (Mitroulas).

Referee: Cain Naumcevski (Cavaliers); 1 — Bell (Sharks).

BOX HILL 0

BENTLEIGH 1

BY ANTHONY PELUSO

An under strength Bentleigh Greens recorded an important win in their quest to catch the Sunshine Georgies at the top of the Premier League.

</



WANTED: AMOEBA'S FOR COACHES

POSITIONS VACANT

BY CON STAVROS

WANTED — Coach for Premier League soccer team. No experience necessary. Must have thick skin and be willing to work weekends.

Instant results required. Will report to out-of-touch committee who will place unreasonable demands at all times.

Previous experience at placating anxious fans preferred.

Must take full responsibility for success of all club activities, including but not limited to, half-time raffle, lamington drive, grandstand construction and player performances.

Salary negotiable, but probably will be paid only after threat of legal action. Generous performance bonuses will apply if team wins European Cup (in first season). Short-term appointment only.

You get the feeling that if a legal firm specialising in unfair dismissals scoured the ranks of the soccer scene they'd pick up enough work to last them until Vanuatu



Gary Cole: Still in charge of Altona Magic — at the time of going to press.

qualified for a World Cup.

In the Victorian Premier League alone, the turnover rate on coaches has reached a record high of 10 changes so far this season and we are still counting.

Last year there were eight in total throughout the season and every one was ridiculous.

Need I remind you that

the Premier League has just 14 teams. Do the maths yourself and you see that the life of your average soccer coach in this league is somewhere between the moth and an amoeba.

With the rapid turnover of coaches, you have to figure that pretty soon they are going to run out of

Current Premier League Clubs	Coaches this year (until round 17)	Premier League Seasons since	Total Coaches in that Period	Average Games per Coach
Springvale City	2	4	2	47
Box Hill Inter	1	2	1	42
Bulleen Lions	2	6	4	37
Green Gully	1	6	4	37
Port Melbourne	2	3	2	34
St Albans	2	6	7	21
Fawkner	2	6	7	21
Altona Magic	2	6	8	18
Thomastown Zeb.	1	1	1	16
Bentleigh Greens	1	1	1	16
Sunshine Georgies	1	5	8	15
Albion Redsox	4	6	14	10
Heidelberg United	2	1	2	8

* includes home and away games only

* figures represent changes of senior coach, including those who have coached same club twice or more

* period up until end round 17, 1996

implement systems and development programs.

Clubs should be investing in long-term commitments with their coaching staff, much like they try and do with key players.

The fact that so many coaches are shown the door is indicative of poor club management and selection procedures rather than any lack of qualified candidates.

Most teams when they look for a coach simply pick one off the coaches round-a-bout that is full of well known names who were sacked from their last job for being ineffective, but are now suddenly the best coach since the guy who handled the Lions at the Colosseum.

Coaching moves at the Premier League level are no surprise. It's a breeding ground for future stars and a half-way house for fading legends, so you have to expect some movement.

But hey this is the Victorian Premier League after all, not the Little League or THE Premier League. Give these guys a chance.

Take a look at the following facts if you still need convincing.

- Only five of the current premier league clubs boast an average senior coaching lifespan in excess of one season.

- Since 1990 the average number of Premier League coaches to leave during the playing season has more than doubled.

- Only three current coaches have been at the same Premier League clubs in an unbroken stint for more than one season.

- Six current Premier League coaches in their current jobs have had less than 10 games experience.

- Albion are possibly the world champions of coaching changes with 14 coaches in the six seasons since the end of 1990. In that time only one coach — John Dowie — has started and finished a season at the club.

For those whose jaws are still on the ground, Albion's coaches since the start of the 1991 season in order read:

Terry Hennessey, Bobby Russell, Jim Campbell, Les Carter, Cedo Cirkovic, Claude Lucchesi, Dusan Kalecic, Lucchesi again, Rob Davie, Carter again, John Dowie, Bill Murray, Lucchesi for the third time and currently Gus Macleod.



Ken Murphy: Has lasted 17 games at Thomastown.

Season

Number of mid-season changes by Premier League clubs

1991	4
1992	7
1993	7
1994	7
1995	8
1996*	10
Total	43
Average per season	7

* period until end round 17, 1996

Vic Premier Table as at July 23

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sunshine GX	18	13	2	3	32	19	41
Bentleigh Green	18	12	2	4	40	21	38
Heidelberg Utd	18	11	4	3	41	21	37
Altona Gate	18	12	1	5	38	19	37
Thomastown Zeb	18	10	3	5	34	24	33
Green Gully	18	7	7	4	29	23	28
Port Melbourne	18	7	6	5	41	33	27
North Geelong	18	7	4	7	24	29	25
Bulleen	18	6	6	6	27	24	24
Box Hill Inter	18	5	4	9	24	38	19
St Albans	18	3	3	12	19	36	12
Springvale City	18	3	2	13	20	43	11
Albion	18	2	4	12	16	35	10
Fawkner	18	2	4	12	17	37	10

candidates and people like you and me are going to have to have a go.

Personally I'm keeping some weekends free for August because I think my turn is just about due.

There are some bad coaches out there. I can accept that, but you have to start thinking that maybe, just maybe, some clubs are just a fraction trigger happy.

It is getting to the point where some coaches must be sweating after their first loss.

You can picture Willie Vassallo at Sunshine a few weeks ago after his team lost their first game for what seemed a century or two. Poor Willie probably typed up his resignation to save the committee some time.

Apparently in some modern miracle, he survived however.

When was the last time a club committee sacked itself because the club wasn't performing? You're right, that was back the last time Vanuatu qualified for World Cup.

Coaching is a difficult task at any level. to succeed you need time to develop an affinity with the players and an opportunity to fully

Current

Premier League Clubs

Current Premier League Clubs	Current Coach	Consecutive Games as Senior Coach
Green Gully	Chris Taylor	69
Box Hill Inter	Rob Ruffalo	43
Sunshine Georgies	Willie Vassallo	40
Thomastown Zebras	Ken Murphy	17
North Geelong	Steve Radojevic	17
Bentleigh Greens	Harry Chalkitis	17
Altona Magic	Gary Cole	15
Fawkner	Mike Rainey	10
Springvale City	John Colangeli	9
Port Melbourne	Frank Arok	7
Bulleen Lions	Andy Bozikas	5
Heidelberg United	Dusan Brnovic	5
Albion Redsox	Gus Macleod	3
St Albans	Dave O'Conner	2

* includes home and away games only

* number of games only includes those in current stint at this club

* period up until end of round 17, 1996



BY JANENE MAR



AUSSIES UNDER-PREPARED

The Australian Team departed yesterday (Monday) bound for Florida, USA where they will face some exciting world-class opposition, but as a National Team go in very much under-prepared.

National Coach Tom Sermanni welcomes the opportunity to be playing such top flight opposition, but expressed some concern over the current state of readiness to take on the biggest of challenges.

With the last minute cancellation of the Brazil tournament in May, the national team program was thrown into disarray, and this replacement tour pieced together under difficult circumstances very quickly. Consequently, the players now embark on the tour having not worked together since the tournament in New Zealand back in March and one brief camp seven weeks ago.

"Our preparation is probably as poor as it has been for any tour in the past two years," said Sermanni. "So really, we're going in dead cold."

Sermanni, at this early stage of the overall rebuilding

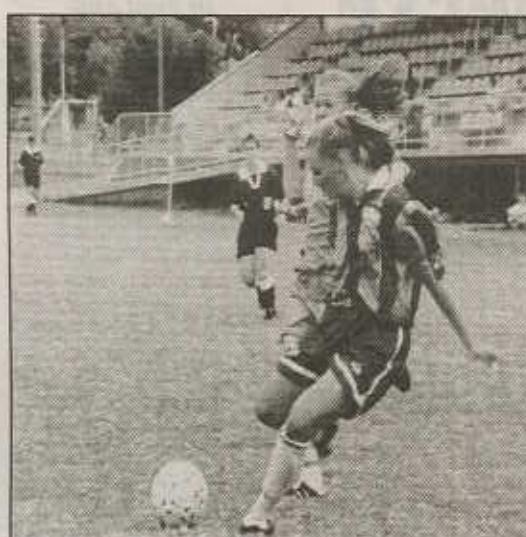
On examining closely the job ahead, the odds seem somewhat stacked against the fledgling Australian Team. Five matches over ten days, with four of these encounters up against two of the top three nations in the world.

Coming from an Australian winter into the heat and humidity of Florida will take some adjustment, although the Aussies' match schedule will allow little time for acclimatisation. The first assignment against the USA, Olympic gold medal favourites and on their home soil, kicks off just two days after arrival.

"It will be a very very tough tour," Sermanni said simply. "A lot tougher than any other, including the World Cup. Then we had everything well planned and plenty of time. Here, straight off we play the Americans."

"Our opposition will be primed up in preparation for the Olympic Games," he added. "In less than three weeks, they will be at their prime. We are four years away from ours."

Sermanni, at this early



Tammie Thornton: 20 year old from QAS.

process, takes with him a young and inexperienced team with four set to make their international debut and half the team aged twenty or under.

The twenty players' international caps added together comes to just over two hundred, a total less than the sum of just two Americans, Mia Hamm and

Michelle Akers.

In addition to the obvious long flight over to the USA, the travel required will be demanding. Despite all matches taking place in the state of Florida, travel between the four host cities will prove quite taxing. The two USA matches for instance are separated by a six hour bus journey.

On a more positive note, the tour promises much and will play a huge part in the development of the players and team as a whole. The experience gained and the lessons learnt will be invaluable.

"I want us to do as well as can be expected," said Sermanni. "If I was concerned about results, I would not have gone on this tour. I am looking for a change of attitude and approach in how we go about our play. I want us to go in and start looking more competitive."

"I would like us to come away with the reputation of being a team that is continually improving. But again that will take some time."

I will be looking to the more experienced players who, over the last two years, have been through many of these sort of games at this calibre and know what to expect.

It's reached the stage where the expectation is that they cope at this level, not just survive."

Sermanni feels the most

important issue on the National Team agenda is for much more regular exposure against opposition such as this, if Australia is ever to become serious contenders on the world stage.

"We've now got to start increasing what we're doing. If you look at the year

teams we'll be facing in this competition."

"It's all very well to keep saying we've changed from how things were before, but we are still behind the rest of the world. We at least need to do what they are doing, otherwise we are not actually making any ground,



Joanne Peters: NSW ITC teenager on tour to USA.

1995/96, we have only played seven internationals, which is not nearly enough.

From this tour, we need to start looking at playing 15-20 internationals a year — get the players on the road and start playing the sort of

we are just losing less."

The Australians' immediate challenge is the two matches against hosts USA, on Thursday 4.30pm (Florida time) in Tampa, and Saturday 7.30pm in Pensacola.

Brazil Unpredictable



American champions, they lack the professionalism and polish of the Americans and Europeans.

But endowed with the Brazilian flair and passion, they are capable of good football.

In 1996, they are the only team apart from current World Champions Norway to come away with anything against the mighty USA, pulling off a 1-1 draw in the final of the Brazil Cup in January.

In a fiery encounter, the US dominated possession and shots on goal but at the end of the ninety minutes, Brazil was level on the scoreboard.

USA won on penalties, but the result was an important boost for Brazil.

Four days earlier, Brazil had gone down just 2-3 to the USA, proving that at their best, they can perform against the top teams.

South America is lucky to have a representative at the Olympic Games after Brazil's ninth placing at the World Cup.

Brazil were promoted into the Olympic eight with the technical omission of England, who can only compete in the olympics as Great Britain.

Brazil are capable of causing the odd upset, but need greater depth and consistency to really make their mark.

At last year's World Cup, they beat hosts Sweden, but were unable to carry on with the job. The 1991 World Cup was also a ninth place finish.

Although clear South

Juniors Battle it out

The Australian Junior Championship kicks off this Sunday in Southport, on the Queensland Gold Coast. Five States will be fighting it out for the title, won last year for the first time by the ACT.

The gathering of some of Australia's top young players will be joined this year by an Australian representative team.

ACT, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Auckland will all face each other in a round-robin format event, the week climaxing with the final on Saturday afternoon.

Noticeably absent are long time favourites NSW, who made their intentions known last year with the news that a team would no longer be entered in this age group, preferring to use the resources over a wider group of young players in development programs. N.NSW, NT

and WA are also absent from this year's Championship.

Predicting a winner is not an easy task this year with several states not competing, and last year's Championship showing that history is no longer a reliable indicator. The great efforts now put into elite junior development will make for some very interesting contests.

Also encouraging are the number of female coaches coming through and earning state level appointments.

Three coaches, Katrina Neuss (nee Alexander), Sarah Fitzgerald, and Nicky Leitch are all current State or National level players also making a success of their soccer career on the sidelines.

National Coach Tom Sermanni, on duty in the USA, will be represented at the tournament by his Assistant Coach Greg Brown.

JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW

Southport, Qld

Sunday July 7

Noon	AUCK	v	SA
1.30pm	ACT	v	TAS
3.00pm	VIC	v	QLD

Monday July 8

3.00pm	AUCK	v	TAS
4.30pm	SA	v	VIC
6.00pm	QLD	v	ACT

Tuesday July 9

4.30pm	AUCK	v	QLD
6.00pm	VIC	v	ACT
7.30pm	TAS	v	SA

Thursday July 11

4.30pm	AUCK	v	ACT
6.00pm	SA	v	QLD
7.30pm	TAS	v	VIC

Friday July 12

3.00pm	AUCK	v	VIC
4.30pm	QLD	v	TAS
6.00pm	ACT	v	SA

South Australia: Lynn White West Adelaide, Stacey Stocco Modbury Vista, Renice Reeves Modbury Vista, Erin O'Shea Stirling, Sarah Hayes Modbury Vista, Amanda Hewison Stirling, Anna Routolo Metro Knights, Karin Prince Noarlunga Utd, Sasha Stewart Noarlunga Utd, Jessica Halfpenny Modbury Vista, Rebecca Morrison Aldinga Bay, Debbie Trubee Gepps Cross, Sandra Slimani Sturt Marion, Lisa Di Francesco Blue Eagles, Lynn White (also #1), Kimberley Morris Modbury Vista, Kirsty Baker Aldinga Bay, Vanessa Varga Modbury Vista.

Coach: Kevin McCormack.

Coach: Sarah Fitzgerald.

Tasmania: Keillie Gower Nelson, Candice Belbin Nelson, Kara Browning Nelson, Michelle Jakubec Dosa, Tracy Rolls Metro, Anna Mitchell Metro, Shanti Sundram Metro, Jo Franklin-Paddock Kingbrough, Andrea Compagne Ulverstone, Elizabeth Ratcliffe Launceston, Shelley Cook, Nelson, Andrea Dixon Nelson, Vanessa Johnson Kingbrough, Sally McGrath Rapid, Elenor Harper Kingbrough, Kristen Watts Epsom, Belinda Powell Cranbourne, Jenny Skinner Blackburn.

Victoria: Roisin McGowan Lanewarrin, Sarah Crane Geelong, Linda Masciulli Clayton, Emma Rea Geelong, Antonella Serapiglia Clayton, Bronwyn Carey Diggers Rest, Jenni Black Diggers Rest, Marie Naim Sunshine Park, Amy Porter Morwell Falcons, Jamara Maza Melb. Warriors, Melissa Barbieri Melb. Zebras, Kate Esnouf Golden City, Aleasandra Dimitrekska Meadow Park, Lauren Dieckmann Brighton, Tania Sarullo Clayton, Kristen Watts Epsom, Belinda Powell Cranbourne, Jenny Skinner Blackburn.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

England's dream ends as Germany hold their nerve

GERMANY 1
ENGLAND 1

(Germany won 7-6 after penalty kicks)

BY ROY HAY IN ENGLAND

England's Euro 96 adventure is over after it once again failed in a penalty kick competition to overcome its nemesis Germany in front of 75,000 fans at Wembley.

England got off to the kind of start which normally sets up a victory when Alan Shearer scored his fifth goal in the competition inside two minutes. Paul Gascoigne's corner was headed on by skipper Tony Adams and Shearer ducked between two defenders to put the ball into the net.

The St. George banners were everywhere and "Football's coming home" echoed around the stadium. But like all its predecessors, this German team is resilient and well organised. Within ten minutes it had begun to pull the English defence this way and that, taking advantage of the gap left by the suspension of Gary Neville. Christian Ziege and Stefan Reuter on the flanks tested Darren Anderton and Stuart Pearce's defensive skills, while the mobile Andreas Mieller and Stefan Kuntz teased Adams and Southgate in the centre. Because Paul Ince was patrolling just in front of the defence, Matthias Sammer had the freedom of midfield to orchestrate attacks when he came

forward. Moeller and Stefan Freund were involved in an incisive break after 15 minutes and Thomas Helmer's final pass left Kuntz free behind the defence to score the equaliser.

England's moves were less structured, but when Anderton and David Platt exchanged passes before the former crossed to the far post, Shearer put the chance wide of goal.

Just before the break Anderton and Shearer combined again but the result was the same. Steve McManaman was being double-teamed by the German defence every time he threatened, but Anderton was showing more willingness to take defenders on that he had been in previous matches.

The platform from which England built its moves was always shaky because Adams, Pearce and to a lesser extent Southgate lacked the absolute composure and ball skills of their German opponents in defence.

The second half opened with a good McManaman run, but his cross went straight to Andreas Kopke, then Paul Ince took advantage of a slip by Moller to burst through the centre for a shot which whistled over the bar.

Gascoigne wriggled his way to the bye-line but his cross was headed away by Freund. This was probably England's best sustained spell of the match, but Reuter lifted the siege with a break down the right and cross which Moller glanced wide.

Referee Sandor Puhl was in fine control of the game, but he produced cards for Paul Gascoigne and later Moller. England tried a couple of set

piece moves, but normal time ended with the score still one-all. Extra time produced a flurry of incident as McManaman cut the ball back and Darren Anderton drove against the post. Moller charged through the middle and David Seaman touched his shot over the bar. Kuntz had the ball in the net with a header from a corner but it was disallowed for a push on an England defender.

Then Anderton put over a superb cross to the far post. Gascoigne sliding in missed it by a hair's breadth. If it had have gone in penalties would not have been needed.

Southgate crossed from wide on the right and Shearer threw himself at the ball but could not get a touch, which would have been all that was needed. Ince surprised everyone with the power of a defensive header as Germany pressed for a goal, but the fourth match which has gone to extra-time, had, like its predecessors, to be settled by penalty kicks.

Each side's regular first five converted their kicks immaculately, which brought Gareth Southgate to the mark. When Kopke parrished his kick, it was left to Moller to drive past Seaman and take Germany into the final.

In 1992 Germany reached the final in Sweden against the unfancied Danes, and lost. This time it must face the Czech outsiders, who regain Sychoperek, Kuka and Bjebl after suspension, while Germany lose Reuter and Moller, and have Klinsmann and now Freund injured. It could mean only three fit outfield substitutes by Sunday.

Germany worthy victors

BY PETER KRUPKA
IN ENGLAND

Love them or hate them, the Germans have once again proved they are Europe's, and possibly the world's, most powerful soccer nation.

So much has been written and spoken about the "German machine".

It has won admiration for its "never say die" attitude, its phenomenal ability to stay calm under the greatest pressure and its uncanny knack of making the most of any situation.

How fitting it is that, in the space of four days, Germany knocked out host nation England in the most tense penalty shoot-out of the European Championship, to show how tough its nerve was, and then followed that with the tournament's only golden goal, taking advantage of the competition's new extra time rule.

It would seem the German national team is blessed with a rare quality that makes it rise to the big occasion.

Three time World Cup winners, three time champions of Europe, World Cup runners up three times and finalists in the European Championship twice, the national honours' board is the envy of all nations.

While ice-cool defender Matthias Sammer has emerged as a candidate for the player of the tournament, and the first player any thinking person would pick in the side that you would have play for your life,

the Germans lacked outright stars.

Injuries robbed them of establishing goal ace Jurgen Klinsmann for much of the series and suspensions of Stefan Reuter and Andreas Moller in the final robbed Germany of two other players you would probably pick in that side to play for your life.

Under the guidance of Berti Vogts, Germany has shown it doesn't need stars or personalities to win major tournaments. It has a substitutes bench stocked with top quality players and a playing discipline that gives it the edge over virtually every opponent.

The feats of the Germans will soon be etched in the history of the game but the

rioting by sour English fans throughout the country after their defeat at the hands of the eventual champions, could well come back to haunt the game in England.

Parts of the English media could be blamed for the trouble by inciting German hatred before the game, portraying the semi-final showdown as the Third World War against the 'despised' Germans.

As the world's focus moves from England, the actions of the nation's much-hated thugs could remove any chance the country has of hosting the World Cup in 2006, when England dream about 40 years ago when it collected its only major honour the 1966 World Cup.

WHY DIDN'T YOU BELT IT? ASKS MUM

The mother of heartbreak England soccer player Gareth Southgate said her son was devastated after missing his vital penalty shot at Wembley.

Barbara Southgate said she spoke to her son soon after the match which saw the end of England's Euro 96 dreams and asked him, "Why didn't you just belt it?"

She said bewildered Southgate, who plays for Aston Villa, replied that he just didn't know.

His shot, the sixth fired from the England team in a nerve-shredding penalty shoot-out at the end of the semi-final, was caught by the German goalkeeper Andreas Koepke.

Mrs Southgate from West Sussex, said she and her husband Clive wept with emotion as the great sporting drama ended in disaster.

But she said of her son, "I am so proud of him."

FRENCH CZECH-MATED!

Underrated and understrength Czech Republic beat France 6-5 on penalties following a goalless match in the first European Championship semi-final in Manchester on Wednesday, to continue its glory run.

Miroslav Kadlec hit the winning penalty although the Kaiserslautern defender had not taken one for years. Moments earlier, Petr Kouba had blocked a Reynald Pedros shot to set the stage for Kadlec's exploit.

"I hadn't taken a penalty for four or five years with my club which is why I didn't offer to take one in the first five," said Kadlec.

"Then nobody seemed to want to take the sixth one so because I didn't want the team

to argue about it I went forward to take it. It's a fantastic night and I think it will be even better when it all sinks in tomorrow."

The Czech Republic's victory was all the more surprising as they were without four suspended players, Pavel Kuka, Jan Sychoperek, Radek Latal and Radek Bejbl.

Czech coach Dusan Uhrin admitted it was not a great game but could not contain his pride.

"It was not a good match and both teams were very defensive. We were very under-strength with four players suspended, but we have made it to the final."

"I'm surprised and delighted. I am very proud to coach this team."

After the game coach Dusan Uhrin's rank

outsiders, 80-1 to win this title before Euro 96 began, were just 90 minutes away from a victory that would even eclipse Denmark's shock triumph four years ago in Sweden.

This was the Czech's first final appearance since they won the title as part of the new defunct Czechoslovakia 20 years ago in 1976.

They lost to Luxembourg in a qualifying tie 11 months ago but came through ahead of Holland and Norway and since the finals began they have eliminated Italy, Portugal and then France.

For Aime Jacquet's France, it was an outcome just as agonising as the World Cup in 1982 when they lost the semi-final on spot-kicks to West Germany.

"The adventure is over. We gave it all we could but now we are going home," he said after their 28-match unbeaten run came to an end.

In the penalty shootout, Zinedine Zidane got the ball rolling as he scored in the bottom left hand corner, before Lubos Kubic made it 1-1 by shooting straight down the middle.

Youri Djorkaeff and Pavel Nedved both scored as did Dixente Lizarazu and Patrik Berger to make it 3-3.

Vincent Guerin put pressure on Czech Republic's Karel Proborsky with a well-taken penalty, but both scored to make it 4-4.

Laurent Blanc scored, though keeper Petr

Kouba got a touch, to make it 5-4 to France meaning Karel Rada had to score to keep them in the competition. Rada obliged just before catastrophe struck for France.

Kouba blocked the ball with his legs from Pedros to leave Kadlec to get the glory.

The shootout put an end to the worst match in Euro 96. Both sides were as unenterprising as each other till France had chances midway through the second half.

Youri Djorkaeff hit the bar from outside the box with Petr Kouba who was winning his 50th cap, well beaten.

Then moments later, a Zidane cross from the right was met by a Djorkaeff volley which landed on top of the net.

goalkeeper Koepke for a corner.

But there were to be no more goals in normal time and the final followed two of the quarter-finals and both semifinals in going into extra-time.

Bierhoff scored his second goal in the 95th minute to put Germany 2-1 ahead.

That wrapped up the game much to the delight of the German fans and team.

FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP FOR GERMANY UNITED

Germany exerted the early pressure as they sought an unprecedented third European Championship title in the final against the Czech Republic on Sunday.

They forced a corner in the opening minute and won a free kick deep inside the Czech half after Mehmet Scholl was fouled by defender Miroslav Kadlec.

But they failed to capitalise on either opportunity or on two more corners they forced in the first seven minutes.

The Czechs, 66-1 outsiders before the tournament began three weeks ago, showed early menace in a counter-attack in the second minute featuring galvanic midfielder Karel Poborsky.

Germany made three changes from the starting line-up which knocked out England in the semifinals and there were whistles from some sections of the crowd who had not forgiven their elimination of the hosts at Wembley last Wednesday.

The Czechs made four changes from the team which started in their victorious semifinal against France. Kuka, one of three returning Czech players who missed the semifinal through suspension, sent in a cross from the left. Poborsky met it but volleyed over the bar.

The red-shirted Czechs were getting more into their stride. They won a free kick when Markus Babbel fouled Kuka and then forced a corner but German goalkeeper Andreas Koepke plucked the incoming corner out of the air with no trouble.

Kuka and Pavel Nedved combined in another good Czech breakaway which was halted by a foul by Thomas Strunz.

Kadlec touched the free kick to Nedved but the midfielder blasted his shot into the German defensive wall.

Christian Ziege, who scored the first German goal in their 2-0 group C victory over the

Czechs on June 9, headed over the Czech bar in the 28th minute after Dieter Eilts had won a corner.

But within a minute the Czechs were down at the other end and Koepke had to scramble to blot out the danger of the elusive Kuka. Germany came desperately close to a goal in the 35th minute.

Stefan Kuntz found space for a close-range shot which hit goalkeeper Petr Kouba but was still on its way to the goal before defender Karel Rada hooked it clear off the line. Kouba was the Czech hero a minute later, saving at the feet of Kuntz, who had been put clear in the box by a telling through-pass from Ziege.

But two minutes before the interval the situation was reversed. Kuka beat his marker Eilts and burst through on goal for a fierce right-foot shot.

Koepke did well to block the effort and concede a corner which in turn led to a header

from Rada over the crossbar. Eilts was taken from the pitch on a stretcher just before halftime, having hurt his left knee in a tackle on Jiri Nemec. He was replaced by Marco Bode.

Czech defender Michal Horak earned the first booking of the match in the 47th minute when he fouled Bode.

Nedved linked with Kuka in the 54th minute and the striker passed to Patrik Berger, whose first-time left-foot shot drew a difficult low save from Koepke.

The Czechs took the lead in the 60th minute when Berger scored from the penalty spot.

Matthias Sammer brought down Poborsky as the Czech midfielder charged through on the right, arrowing in on the penalty box. It looked as if the tackle was made before Poborsky arrived in the area but Italian referee Pierluigi Pairetto pointed to the spot.

Berger fired his left-foot spot

kick into the net underneath Koepke's dive and was engulfed by his jubilant team mates.

The Germans made their second substitution at the 70th minute mark, with striker Oliver Bierhoff replacing Scholl in an attempt to add bite to the attack.

Four minutes later Bierhoff amply justified the decision of coach Berti Vogts with an equaliser.

Ziege took a long free kick into the box and Bierhoff (right), who plays for Italian club Udinese, got in front of his markers to head home much to the relief of German fans.

It was his fourth goal for Germany and his first of this tournament. Bode had a shot from the edge of the box well saved by Kouba in the 83rd minute and then Juergen Klinsmann, returning after tearing a calf muscle in the quarter-final victory over Croatia, tried and failed to get in a close-range shot on the Czech goal.





Germany's Boss Vogts

Germany's soccer chief called last week for the rules on yellow cards to be changed at major tournaments.

As his country struggled to assemble a team for last Sunday's final, German football federation president Egidius Braun promised, "I intend to put forward a proposal that the yellow cards picked up by players in the group stage should be dropped for the knockout stages.

"Andy Moeller got a yellow card in the first match for pulling his opponent by the shoulder. That is treated in the same way as a bad foul. We need to talk about this. We can't ignore the fact that football is a physical game," added Braun, who also chairs the UEFA rules' commission.

After the dramatic semi-final win over England, Germany coach Berti Vogts awoke with a huge headache about his line-up for the clash with the Czech Republic.

Because of suspension and injury he was left with the minimum number of players.

Playmaker Moeller, who captained his country for the first time for a whole game last

Wednesday and wing back Stefan Reuter are both suspended.

Defender Thomas Helmer, struggling with injuries to both knees, and midfielder Stefan Freund, who has strained knee ligaments, both limped off.

Left-back Christian Ziege has a thigh injury. Captain and chief marksman Juergen Klinsmann had only a tiny chance of being fit after tearing a calf muscle in the quarter-final against Croatia, an injury which normally needs at least 10 days to heal.

Germany's injury problems could not have been worse at Euro '96. Vogts lost experienced defender Juergen Kohler and midfielder Mario Basler earlier in the tournament and striker Fredi Bobic was then ruled out because of a shoulder injury.

Vogts could have had virtually all his key players as spectators in a repeat of the 1976 final when the Czechs won a penalty shoot-out.



Berti Vogts: Wants to see the yellow cards rules change.

UEFA allows additional players

With UEFA's blessing, injury-stricken Germany added midfielder Jens Todt to its squad for yesterday's final lineup against the Czech Republic although he's unlikely to start the game.

Because of the injury crisis, UEFA allowed both finalists to add two players to their squads.

The Czechs declined, but the Germans decided to recruit Todt.

"Germany's problem is that five players are definitely out," UEFA said in a statement.

"Jurgen Kohler, Mario Basler and

Fredi Bobic have suffered long-term injuries and Stefan Reuter and Andreas Moller are suspended.

Furthermore, six players are very doubtful."

The crisis meant that coach Berti Vogts already faced the likelihood of naming both reserve goalkeepers, Oliver Kahn and Oliver Reck, as outfield players.

"Vogts may only include the two additional players on his teamsheet in order to guarantee the presence of 13 outfield players in the final," UEFA said.

EUROPEAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

- 1960 — Soviet Union
- 1964 — Spain
- 1968 — Italy
- 1972 — W Germany
- 1976 — Czech
- 1980 — W Germany
- 1984 — France
- 1988 — Netherlands
- 1992 — Denmark
- 1996 — Germany



France must score more goals

French coach Aime Jacquet, criticised for leaving Eric Cantona and David Ginola out of his Euro '96 squad, denied he had made selection mistakes.

"I had total conviction (about my selection), although afterwards one can say anything," he added as his ejected squad prepared to leave for home after their semi-final penalty shoot-out defeat by the Czech Republic in Manchester.

But Jacquet did admit there were failings in attack that cost France a place in the Final.

At Old Trafford, domain of Manchester United idol Cantona, France completed four hours of football without scoring.

They were taken to extra time and then penalties also by the Netherlands in their quarter-final in Liverpool.

"The defence did well, not so the attack which is the most demanding area of the team.

"There are a lot of things we must look at again," said

Jacquet, whose country host the World Cup finals in 1998.

Forward Youri Djorkaeff, at a loss to explain France's dearth of goals, said, "We must reach the World Cup final."

Jacquet said he did not plan major changes in personnel but would have to analyse new tactics to overcome the scoring difficulties.

Midfielder Zinedine Zidane, who has been below par at Euro 96, said that however good a team believed they were they quickly had to come to terms with the fact that it was "very difficult to compete at this level".

In a tournament in which most of the football has been defensive, Zidane said that against the Czechs he found less space as the match wore on.

France conceded only two goals in their five matches, one a brilliant free kick by Hristo Stoichkov in their 3-1 win over Bulgaria in their last group match.

But they gave away a crucial equaliser to Spain in a

1-1 draw in Leeds in their previous match, a goal which Jacquet said changed France's whole focus.

Had France beaten Spain 1-0 and secured their quarter-final place before meeting Bulgaria in Newcastle, Jacquet said he could have rested some players knowing he could afford a defeat.



Aime Jacquet

LIKE FATHER - LIKE SON, UNFORTUNATELY

Youri Djorkaeff would have had family as well as national pride urging him on to set up a Euro 96 soccer final showdown with England.

For while all of England wallowed in nostalgia, fondly remembering 1966 and all that, the 28-year-old French striker had different reasons for winning through to Wembley on Sunday.

Youri's dad Jean left these islands with the rest of the French World Cup squad, bowed and broken 30 years ago.

England met its old adversary in its third group match and won 2-0 to secure its passage into the next stage.

Jean played at right-back that day in the first of two defeats he suffered at Wembley.

He was installed as captain two years later but the French side then suffered a 5-0 drubbing at England's hands.

"I would have loved to

Youri had hoped to lay those ghosts to rest on his father's behalf, had the French managed to overcome the Czech Republic in the semi-final at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

Youri used to watch his dad on television when he played for France and stood rigidly to attention when the Marseilles boomed out.

Like father like son - Jean had tears in his eyes when the national anthem echoed around the stadium before the match with the Czechs.

Djorkaeff junior, who is joining Inter Milan after the championships, said: "My father had even looked me up at our training camp and it was wonderful to have him there."

"We had a long chat and as usual he gave me some good advice. He told me this is when it gets really tough, when you really have to work hard to get the result you want."

"But we are feeling calm and confident and ready for the challenge that lies ahead."

Over-confident - perhaps?



Youri (r) & Jean (l) Djorkaeff:

WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

HUNGARIA FIRST DIVISION

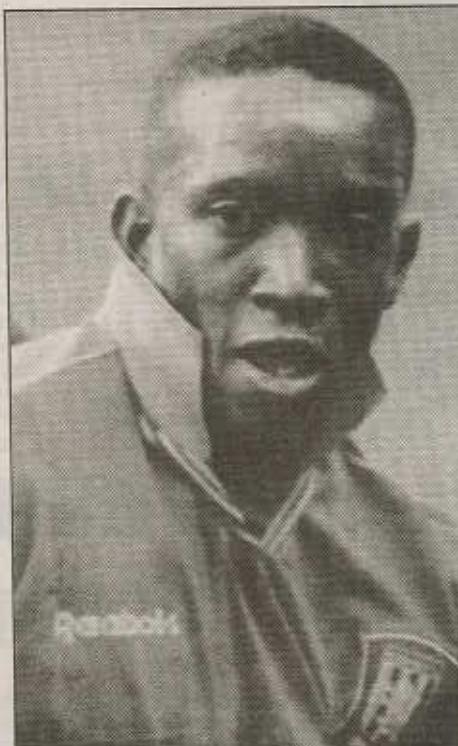
— June 24 —

MTK FC	2	Ferencvaros	1
Ujpest TE	5	Csepel SC	1
Kispest-Honved FC	2	Vac FC-Samsung	0
BVSC Dreher	2	F Parmalat 96	1
DVSC-Epona	4	Innstadt Stadler FC	1
Pecs MFC	3	Zalaegerszeg TE	3
Bekescsaba EFC	3	Gyori ETO FC	1
Haladas VFC	1	V Casino Vigado	1
TABLE			
Ferencvaros	30	21	3
BVSC-Dreher	30	18	7
Ujpest TE	30	12	12
DVSC Epona	30	14	6
MTK FC	30	13	7
Kispest-Honved FC	30	12	10
V Casino Vigado	30	12	10
Csepel SC	30	11	9
Innstadt Stadler FC	30	8	12
Zalaegerszeg TE	30	8	10
Vac FC-Samsung	30	7	12
Haladas VFC	30	8	8
Fehervar '96 FC	30	8	7
Bekescsabai EFC	30	6	11
Gyori ETO FC	30	6	9
Pecs MFC	30	7	5
Three penalty points have been deducted from Pecs MFC.			
The name of Parmalat FC has been changed to Fehervar FC.			
Ferencvaros — Champions			

Helsingborg	1	AIK	0
Malmö	1	Oddevold	1
Djurgården	2	Umeå	2
Orebro	3	Trelleborg	1
Orgryte	3	Oster	0

TABLE

Helsingborg	12	8	3	1	21	7	27
Gothenburg	12	7	3	2	21	5	24
Halmstad	12	6	3	3	16	14	21
Orgryte	12	5	3	4	14	9	18
Oster	12	5	3	4	15	15	18
Norrköping	12	4	5	3	14	9	17
Malmö	11	4	5	2	11	7	17
Djurgården	12	4	2	6	11	15	14
AIK	12	4	2	6	10	14	14
Umeå	12	3	4	5	13	19	13
Degerfors	11	3	3	5	11	23	12



Dwight Yorke:

Orebro	12	3	2	7	10	16	11
Trelleborg	12	3	2	7	14	21	11
Oddevold	12	3	2	7	9	16	11

AFRICAN CUP WINNERS CUP

2nd Round, 2nd Leg

Maiduguri, Nigeria:
 Katsina Utd (Nigeria) 3
 Mbilinga Sports (Gabon) 0
 Aggregate score: 3-3
 Katsina won 3-2 on penalties and qualifiers for quarter finals.



WORLD CUP CONCACAF

Caribbean Zone

Third Round Qualifying 2nd Leg

Port of Spain:
 Trinidad & Tobago 8
 S. John (1, 24, 78)
 D. Yorke (8)
 C. Marcelle (14)
 A. Rougier (19)
 A. Eve (42)
 R. Latapy (89)
 Trinidad & Tobago win 12-1 on aggregate.

First Leg

Bridgetown:
 Barbados 0
 Jamaica 0
 W. Boyd (89)

FRANCE 98

WORLD CUP AFRICAN ZONE

First Round, 2nd Leg

Accra:
 Liberia 4
 R. Clarke (25)
 G. Weah (79)
 O. Makor (87)
 J. Debbah (90)
 Crowd: 25,000
 Liberia won 5-2 on aggregate

SWEDISH FIRST DIVISION

— June 27 —

Halmstad 3
Norrköping 1
Degerfors 0
Gothenburg 0

Helsingborg 1
Malmö 1
Djurgården 2
Orebro 2
Orgryte 3
Oster 0



EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Semi Finals

Wembley:
 Germany 1
 England
 AET
 Kuntz (15) Shearer (2)
 Germany won 6-5 on penalties

Manchester:
 Czech Republic 0
 France
 AET
 Czech Republic won 6-5 on penalties

Wembley:
 Germany 2
 Czech Rep 1
 Bierhoff (73, 95) Berger (59 pen)

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP GROUPS SUMMARY

Group A

	Games	F	A	Pts	PSN
ENGLAND	1-1	2-0	4-1	7	2
HOLLAND	0-0	2-0	1-4	3	4
SCOTLAND	0-0	0-2	1-0	1	2
S'LAND	1-1	0-2	0-1	1	4

Group B

	Games	F	A	Pts	PSN
FRANCE	1-0	1-1	3-1	5	2
BULGARIA	1-1	1-0	1-3	3	4
SPAIN	1-1	1-1	2-1	4	3
ROMANIA	0-1	0-1	1-2	1	0

Group C

	Games	F	A	Pts	PSN
ITALY	2-1	1-2	0-0	3	3
RUSSIA	1-2	0-3	3-3	4	1
CZECH REP	0-2	2-1	3-3	5	4
GERMANY	2-0	3-0	0-0	5	0

Group D

	Games	F	A	Pts	PSN
CROATIA	1-0	3-0	0-3	4	3
TURKEY	0-1	0-1	0-3	0	0
DENMARK	1-1	0-3	3-0	4	3
PORTUGAL	1-1	1-0	3-0	5	1

Dinamo Bucharest (Romania)
Jaro (Finland)

Note: This competition is an elimination series for entries to the UEFA Cup. Last season Bordeaux came through from here to play in the Final against Bayern Munich.



UEFA INTERTOTO CUP

Group 1

VfB Stuttgart (Germany)	0
Aalborg (Denmark)	1
Hapoel Haifa (Israel)	1
Cliftonville (Northern Ireland)	1





Commonwealth Bank

BILL TURNER CUP

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE NORTHERN NSW SOCCER FEDERATION LTD.



Schoolboys Internationals

BY BOB BROOKS

The Australian Secondary Schools Association will be parading up and coming teenagers in Sydney in July.

New Zealand Schools will be providing opposition for Australia in two Sydney games for the Trans Tasman Schools Cup.

Both games are in the second week of the NSW School holidays, and are deserving of a good crowd.

This is the team which had a very successful seven match tour to Singapore and Malaysia in January of this year.

Five wins and two draws

was their haul.

This group of Under 20s contains some formidable players, almost certainly one or two future Australian Socceros.

In the past a large number of top notch players had their first taste of international competition and travel in the Schoolboys tour.

The list is too extensive to print but here is a sample:

Katholos, Krnecic, Yankos, Crino, Bernal, Waugh (Steve), Tapai, Polak, Ollerenshaw, Van Blerk, Trimboli, Veart, Horvat, Vidmar (Tony), Zelic, Bingley, Corica, Stanton, Tsekenis, Milicic, Tsekinis, Lozanovski and more.

Who will emerge from the current crop? Tony Lettieri figures prominently in Best of Match ratings. Ben Willard is also amongst the front runners and was in fact adjudged Player of the Singapore and Malaysia tour.

You can catch the two internationals on Wednesday July 10 and the next day in the Sydney area.

Game one is at Valentine Park, Meuranks Lane, Glenwood (formerly called Parklea) with a 2.30pm kick off.

On Thursday evening at Seymour Shaw Park, Miranda the teams go head to head at 7.30pm.

A great opportunity to see top talent on display.



Charlie Yankos: Came up through the ranks of the Australian Schoolboys team.

COMMONWEALTH BANK CUP RD 4:

Hunters Hill 2 Narrabeen 1, Concord 1 Carlingford 0, Henry Kendall 2 Lisarow 1, Kuring-gai 1 Epping Boys 0, Sydney Tech 1 Kirrawee 0, Kingsgrove North 1 James Cook 0, Marrickville 4 Gymea 2, Kogarah 9 Blakehurst 0, Granville South 1-4 Model Farms 1-3, Seven Hills 1 Mitchell 0, Colyton 5 St Marys 2, St Clair 2 Blaxland 1, Westfields 3 Prairiewood 2, Condell Park 1 St Johns Park 0, Hoxton Park 3 East Hills Boys 0, Leumeah 3 Robert Townson 1, Glendale 3 Forster 1, Whitebridge 4 Lambton 3, Mount View 3 Jesmond 1, Kadina 4 Murwillumbah 1, Wooleooolga 2 Kempsey 0, Keira 6 Woonona 2.

COMMONWEALTH BANK SHELD RD 4:

Arthur Phillip 3 James Ruse 2, Quakers Hill 4 Mitchell 1, Riverstone 6 Penrith 1, Whalan 2 Springwood 1, Westfields 1-2 Fairvale 0, Elderslie 2 Liverpool Girls 1, Bass 4 East Hills Girls 2, Robert Townson 5 Condell Park 4, Chatham 3 Raymond Terrace 1, Cardiff 6 Cessnock 2, Cootamundra 1 Wagga Wagga 0, Griffith 4 James Fallon 0.

Boilover in North West Coaching pays off

Over the years in the North West of Northern NSW, the annual winner of the Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup Area 5A, predictably would come from one of the two Tamworth Schools Oxley High or Tamworth High.

In 1996 saw a dramatic change when Gunnedah High outlasted the more favoured Oxley in a Penalty Kick decider in an exciting Sub-Area final played at Gunnedah.

Many supporters are quick to suggest that the Northern NSW State coaching policy under Director Ken Kaiser is starting to show the fruits of their labours. We agree.

Local club coaches have shown outstanding development as results in Queen's Birthday Weekend State Championships have shown. Added to this are the enthusiastic school coaches who have moulded their

teams into fine units.

Such was the case at Gunnedah where teachers Dick Howland and Trevor Taylor brought their school side into a winning combination.

Before coming to Australia Dick played in the England Schoolboys series while Trevor Taylor played in a Commonwealth Bank open Soccer Cup final win for Kogarah High in 1984.

Gunnedah following a bye on round one, had a comfortable win over a gallant Manilla High in the second round.

In round three Gunnedah were at home against Moree. This was a great match. Again, good coaching and a fine side really put the Gunnedah lads back on their heels in the first half. Moree could have been regarded as somewhat unlucky not to take the lead. Gunnedah's sweeper Corey Anderson saved his side on a number of occasions.

In the second session Gunnedah raised their quality enough to shade the lads from further north. Following a right side break Jade McNeill was on hand to slot home the goal that broke the deadlock.

One can only surmise the outcome of the game had Moree scored first.

In the Sub-Area SA final, Gunnedah once again found themselves with the home ground advantage against the more favoured Oxley but it was the home side that went one up when young McNeill out-skilled the backs with a top goal.

Just on half time Oxley struck back and levelled the score to be quickly followed by another minutes into the second half. With the game almost over Damien Wilson playing in the Gunnedah midfield scored the equaliser.

Extra-time failed to break the deadlock and the penalty kicks eventually saw

Gunnedah through to meet the New England Area 5B winners Duval High from Armidale who had a sound win over Inverell.

BEST EVER FOR JUNEE

From a total school population of only 350 Junee High's Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup side epitomised the "Cat Among the Pigeons" saying in 1996.

Drawing an away fixture in Round One Junee proved too strong for Tumut winning a seven goal thriller 5-2.

At home in Round Two the locals downed Gundagai 5-0. This result equalled the best over season for Junee and proved to the lads that they could mix it with the best.

The next match would be the cruncher. They squared off against the more

favoured Murray High who had victories over James Fallon High (formally Albury North) 4-2 and Albury High 5-2.

In an even but tough encounter Adam Jenkins finished off a Corey Hazell overlap to score the only goal of the match.

After three great wins Junee headed off to Wangaratta across the Victoria border to play their first ever Riverina — North East Victoria, Area 15 semi final, against the powerful Galen College.

And what a game! Defence seemed to fly out of the window as both sides attacked with a vengeance — with eight goals to their combined credit. Galen ran out winners 5-3.

For the season all Junee players must be given high praise. Arguably the stand out boys were sweeper Corey Hazell, Adam Jenkins, midfield-cum-striker, Duncan Brodie and

incredible right midfielder who is still in year 7 and the lad they call their 'import from Wollongong'. Ray Jones, a striker.

A sincere word of congratulations must go to Junee for this fine effort. The side was well coached by Walter Tregea who, during his teacher training days in Newcastle obtained his referees certificate and had actually run lines for Bill Turner in Northern NSW fixtures.

THE FINAL AREA 15

The final of Area 15 features Galan College, Wangaratta and Koorialang. To reach the final Galan defeated Wangaratta Tech, Notre Dame Shepperton, Catholic College Wodonga and Junee while Koorialang accounted for St. Michaels Wagga, Mt. Austin, Deniliquin and Griffiths.

COMMONWEALTH BANK BILL TURNER CUP NSW RD4:

Prairiewood 6 Freeman 1, Pat Bros Fairfield 6 Macquarie Fields 2, Glendale 2 St Pius X 1, Lambton 4 Chatham 0, Mt Saint Patricks 3 Alstonville 0, Kadina 3 Grafton 2, Orara 1 Kempsey 0, Lisarow 3 Terrigal 1, St Francis Xavier 2 Daramalan 1, Edmund Rice 3 Nowra 2, Warrawong 4 Moss Vale 0, Duval 3 Gunnedah 0.

RD 5: Holy Cross College 1 Gilroy College 0, Chris Bros Lewisham 3 Evans 1, Kirrawee 2 Hurstville Boys 1, Pat Bros Blacktown 1 Colo 0, Pat Bros Fairfield 1-5 Prairiewood 1-4, Kadina 2 Mt Saint Patricks 0, Koorialang 3 Galen College 0.

Croatian Corner

By John Viskovich



Croatia's football federation has rejected coach Miroslav Blazevic's resignation after the team's Euro 96 exit, saying he must honour a legal contract.

"Resignation is out of the question. Blazevic has signed a contract with the Croatian football federation. That contract is a law that must be respected," federation deputy director Vlatko Markovic said last week. Blazevic was quoted as saying, "No, I will not withdraw (it). Now you'll have a new coach to criticise," he told Croatian journalists before leaving London.

But on his return to Croatia later, Blazevic said: "I am in a big dilemma because it is evident I lost credit with those who are the most important, that is, our fans..."

Newspapers quoted Blazevic as saying he had been forced to quit by hostile

fans and media.

"You (Croatian newspapers) attacked me when there was no reason for that and the behaviour of the fans was just their reaction to your writing.

"Maybe my job should go to a younger man. I leave nothing behind but the burden of being No. 6 in Europe and a brilliant job in qualifications."

After taking over as Croatia coach in March 1994, Blazevic compiled an impressive record of 16 wins against just three defeats.

The charismatic Blazevic's decision to rest several key players for the group match against Portugal drew widespread criticism in Croatia.

The 3-0 defeat meant a quarter-final against the then favourites Germany.

Otto Baric is the coach most likely to take on Croatia Zagreb. The former Casino Salzburg coach has already told the Zagreb officials what players he wants before he signs. Although he has named some Croatians he has also named four Macedonian ones who play for Sloga FLC. If Baric does sign officials hope he can do the same for their club as he has done for Salzburg i.e. reaching the final of the UEFA Cup with an unheard of line up of players.

Hibic to Spanish club Seville. The Bosnian Croat defender should link up with Josic Jelicic a midfielder who is also linked with Real Madrid. What ever the outcome Seville also hope to get Ivica Mornan on loan from Serie B club Torino.

Rijeka defender Vujanovic has signed a contract with Greek champions Panathinaikos. It seems the Greeks have taken a linking to Croatians after a Croat won the European Basketball final for them.

Barcelona's Dutch striker Jordi Cruyff wouldn't have been at Euro 96 if it wasn't for a Croatian doctor. Doctor Stanislav Peharec provided special treatment in

Croatia for Cruyff and the Dutchman was very grateful. We can guess the magic goal he scored at the championships was dedicated to his doctor.

Not many people would know that Zvonimir Boban has a brother called Drazen. His brother a few years his senior didn't really impress as a player but he did have a stint with Hajduk Split. As we all know Zvonimir was rejected by Hajduk as a junior and to see his brother there instead was a tough pill to swallow.

As Wimbledon hots up watch out for your soccer star watching — Goran Ivanisevic. Goran watched Croatia in Euro 96 so now it's up to Boban, Prosinecki and Suker to return the favour. It seems

Croatia have one more chance at winning something in England.

For more Croatian Sports news and a good laugh tune into CRO 2000. Ante Grabovac and his cast of thousands are on Wednesdays at 8.50pm on 98.5 FM. The programme is broadcast in English and shouldn't be missed.



Zvonimir Boban: Brother played for Hajduk Split.



SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHEART —



LIBERTADORES CUP

(South American Club Championship)

Final — Second Leg

ARGENTINE FIRST DIVISION**— June 25 —**

Platense 2 Estudiantes La Plata 2

TABLE

Velez Sarsfield	14	9	5	1	32	16	29
Estudiantes	14	8	4	2	24	19	28
Lanus	13	8	2	3	29	17	26
Gimnasia La Plata	14	8	2	4	29	18	26
Racing Club	14	7	5	2	24	15	26
Boca Juniors	14	8	2	4	23	21	26
Rosario Central	13	6	5	2	23	13	23
Huracan	14	4	7	3	19	21	19
River Plate	13	6	0	7	28	24	18
Independiente	14	4	5	5	18	21	17
Gimnasia Jujuy	14	5	2	7	17	30	17
Colon	14	4	4	6	14	17	16
Platense	14	5	1	8	19	24	16
Deportivo Espanol	14	3	6	5	15	17	15
Belgrano	14	4	3	7	19	23	15
Ferro Carril Oeste	14	3	6	5	11	18	15
Banfield	14	3	5	6	18	18	14
San Lorenzo	14	3	4	7	12	19	13
Newell's	13	1	6	6	15	24	9
Argentinos	14	2	2	10	10	29	8

BRAZIL RIO DE JANEIRO CHAMPIONSHIP**— June 24 —**

Bangu	0	Madureira	0
Flamengo	4	America	1
Volta Redonda	2	Americano	1
Olaria	5	Itaperuna	4
Fluminense	1	Botafogo	3
Vasco da Gama	0	Barreira	0

TABLE

Flamengo	10	8	2	0	27	7	26	57
Vasco da Gama	10	7	2	1	17	2	23	50
Botafogo	10	5	5	0	21	8	20	39
Fluminense	10	5	2	3	17	10	17	37
Olaria	10	4	1	5	16	21	13	19
Madureira	10	3	4	3	9	15	13	20
Bangu	10	1	7	2	6	9	10	22
Itaperuna	10	2	3	5	13	14	9	25
Americano	10	2	3	5	6	15	9	23
Volta Redonda	10	2	2	6	7	12	8	18
Barreira	10	2	2	6	9	19	8	16
America	10	1	3	6	5	21	6	19

Excess caffeine bring long ban

A Bolivian star's liking for coffee and cola drinks has left a bad taste in his mouth.

Erwin Sanchez received a six-month suspension from the Portuguese Soccer Federation for testing positive for excess caffeine last March.

The suspension will keep Sanchez from lining up with the Bolivia's national team in a World Cup qualifying match against Venezuela on July 7.

Sanchez, a midfielder for Portuguese first division club Boavista, was banned from

play March 14 after he tested positive for excess caffeine in a January 13 league match.

The day of the match, he had consumed four cups of coffee, three Pepsi Colas and three caffeine-laden pills for a headache.

His urine sample after the match showed 12.27 micrograms of caffeine per millilitre.

The maximum permitted is 12 micrograms.

After he was taken out of the game in the 75th minute, the Bolivian consumed a cup of coffee and three Pepsi Colas.

THE COLOMBIAN PRESS

The Colombian press praised River Plate's victory and criticised America's for lack of commitment in the final of the major tournament at club level in South America.

The following are some of the headlines and comments from the Colombian major newspapers: The daily "El Fais" from Cali: "Another impossible dream for America".

Ten years after its first major success at international level, River Plate won the Libertadores Cup for the second time in its history by beating the once again frustrated America of Colombia, 2-0, in the second leg, at Buenos Aires Monumental stadium in front of a capacity crowd of 80,000 fans.

The Colombians, who reached the fourth final without winning any of them, won the first leg played in Cali, by 1-0 with a goal from De Avila.

River Plate coached by former Argentine international striker Ramon Diaz, achieved the victory through goals from the talented young striker Herman Crespo, who has been transferred to Italian club Parma for a reported U\$4,000.00.

Crespo opened the account in the

7th minute with a soft touch after a good build-up from Matias Almeyda and Ariel Ortega. The second came in the 59th when "the Matador" connected with a header a cross from River Plate's midfielder Escudero.

River Plate dominated the first 45 minutes, playing for most of that period in America's half. The skills of Ortega plus the hard work of Almeyda sustained such control, but River's degree of depth up front, with Francescoli and Crespo playing wide open, facilitated America's defensive game and the scoring chances were very few.

In the second period the trend changed, and America pressured throughout the 45 minutes. But during America's best period came River Plate's second goal from Crespo.

From then on River defended and tried to counter-attack, and America maintained the pressure without results.

Defender Al Lamirano, midfielders Matias Almeyda, Gabriel Cedres, and Ariel Ortega, and strikers Crespo and Francescoli, were the best players for the new champions while America's Argentine midfielder Hugo Berti was man of the match.

His urine sample after the

match showed 12.27

micrograms of caffeine per

millilitre.

The maximum permitted is

12 micrograms.

After he was taken out of

the game in the 75th minute,

the Bolivian consumed a cup

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the game in the 75th minute,

the Bolivian consumed a cup



EURO 96

THE CROW HAS LANDED

BY ROY HAY IN ENGLAND

What is one to make of the performance of the Croatians? They came into this tournament with high expectations, their own and those held by many observers who were impressed by their win and a draw against Italy in the qualifiers.

When they played England in a friendly at Wembley, I thought they played very conservatively, failing to demonstrate the kind of lethal skill of which I believed they were capable.

The same unfortunately was true of the tournament, where only one half of football showed the extravagant brilliance lurking beneath the surface.

The cynic would say that this was when the Danes started to chase the game and there were huge gaps to exploit. Against Turkey, Portugal, a tactical and selection disaster, and crucially against Germany, there were fewer moments to savour.

HUBRIS

To be at Euro 96 at all, so soon after recovering from a devastating war, which affected all levels of society, even the majority of the player who were far removed from the battlefield physically, was a considerable achievement.

To qualify for the second phase, when Italy, Russia, the reigning champion Denmark, not to mention Scotland, all failed, was also very meritorious. Objectively it was probably as much as Croatia could have realistically hoped for.

The invitation by the coach to President Tudjmann to attend the final smacked of hubris.

The repeated invocation of the special pride in playing for one's country and the supporters was totally undermined by the selection and performance against Portugal.

I felt for the young supporters who must have spent large sums to attend that match.

But critically it destroyed the team's momentum, something which Armando Sacchi had already found out, and which should have been a warning to the Croatian coach.

PARANOIA

The stories about injuries and the fear that the German referee would send off or caution vital players ahead of the possible match against that country reflected the paranoia which is part of the "us versus them" mentality which afflicts Croatians, Australians and Scots.

A similar sadness was the blaming of the referee for not having a "fifty-fifty attitude" in the match against Germany.

It is reported that Miroslav Blazevic has resigned, having failed to carry out his task of winning the tournament. Perhaps this is excessive, but another coach might give free reign to the talent in this squad and achieve more.

One of the problems has been the obverse of the team's strengths, the fact that it has three brilliant individuals in midfield in Zvonimir Boban, the captain, from AC Milan, Robert Prosinecki of Barcelona and Aljosa Asanovic, who is bound for Derby County from Hajduk Split.

"Each wants to command the show and they don't always make lung-bursting runs in support of each other."

When they do the effect can be devastating. Prosinecki missed the German game, but his replacement Juricic did very well.

ASANOVIC

Asanovic was the pick of the trio. His passes were always incisive and imaginative. They set up many of Suker's goals and attempts on goal.

When he came on in the second half against Portugal he was the one player who clearly wanted to win the game and was prepared to take risks and work hard to bring it about.

Again his passing was excellent and he came up to hit the most threatening shots.

His team-mate at Hajduk, Josip Skoko, is in awe of his skills, but says he can be lazy,

but that was not a charge which can be levelled at Asanovic at Euro 96.

He should be a revelation in the English Premier League at Derby, where he will team up with Igor Stimac, whose second indiscretion in the quarter-final destroyed the momentum which the team had built prior to and following Suker's equaliser.

SUKER

Suker scored one of the goals of the tournament, lobbing Peter Smeichel, and almost embarrassing him even more with a shot from just inside the Danish half, which the keeper clawed out from under the bar.

He got another good, skilful goal against Germany, might have had a penalty in that game, but proved to be unable to direct headers away from the keeper.

He did not have his usual partner Alen Bokšić after the first game, but Goran Vlaović was a first-moving and hard-working replacement, without posing the physical threat of Bokšić.

DEFENCE

The Croatian defence was generally sound and flexible with Jarni and Stanić giving overlapping width, Bilic and Stišić normally marketing tightly and Jerkān sweeping effectively, though seldom venturing forward in the manner of Matthias Sammer of Germany.

Bilic blotted his copybook with a wild kick at Christian Ziege, though he apologised quickly.

He was dominant in the air, prepared to attack and tireless in covering.

He is going to be an influential part of West Ham United's foreign legion in 1996-7.

FRINGE PLAYERS

The fringe players with the exception of Vlaović, who grabbed his chance as substitute against Turkey and Juricic did not impress. Pavlić who had an excellent match against England at

Wembley has lost his dominance with his hair.

He was much better as Torricelli than Vialli. The worrying thing for Croatia in terms of qualification for the World Cup in France in 1998 must be the depth of talent coming through.

This team, which was the nucleus of the World Youth Cup winning side of 1987, may yet have more in it, but it must be getting close to the point at which reconstruction is necessary.

As has happened with Bulgaria and Romania at Euro 96, you cannot extrapolate from good performances in the last major event to success in the next and if I were a Croatian coach I would be more than a little worried, especially as one of the major effects of the war has been a disruption of junior development at home.

SUBLIME

However my abiding memories of Euro 96 will include the sublime, precision passing which took Croatia out of many tight spots, the invention and self-confidence that Davor Suker showed as he reduced Smeichel to human stature, and the flowing movement of Boban, Prosinecki and Asanovic when they were all on the same wavelength.

One just wished that they had gambled more on the skills they possess. To take the Germans on in a physical battle was a miscalculation, as the German players revealed afterwards when they talked about the "provocative" behaviour of their opponents.

Lessons will have been learned from Euro 96, and the team's reputation will ensure that no one takes it lightly from now on. That means that coolness and concentration on skill will be even more at a premium in future.

Croatia has arrived on the European stage, tomorrow it is the world it must conquer.



Hakan Suker: Turkey's danger man was not given a look in against Croatia.

WORLD CUP 98 - THE AUSSIE GOAL

FROM PETER KRUPKA IN ENGLAND

Much has been made of the importance to Australian soccer that the national team qualify for the finals of the World Cup in France in 1998.

A chance to finally give the nation's current crop of players a chance to represent their country at the sport's most prestigious tournament and an opportunity to give Australia a higher profile in the game at an international level, top the list.

For the millions of soccer supporters too young to remember 1974, qualification for the World Cup would remove the mystic from the event, which for too long, they did not consider Australia good enough to be part of.

While tournaments like the World Cup are the ultimate stage for players to show their talent to thousands of eager talent scouts, the benefits for competing nations are enormous.

The World Cup is the ultimate public relations exercise for the competitors.

INTEREST

During Euro 96, Turkey, despite being one of the first teams knocked out, aroused great interest. Realms of information about the country, its players and its plethora of passionate fans stole headlines.

Croatia's players, who have confirmed they are among the best in Europe during the nation's first appearance in the tournament, have become



ambassadors for the war-torn nation and given a human face to the vicious conflict in the former Yugoslavia.

Sport is a global obsession and soccer is the international language. Multi-national corporations gobbled up sponsorship rights to Euro 96, 18 months before the tournament kicked off.

With a television audience of 6.9 billion across 193 nations, even the best known names in the corporate world figure a chance to reach this kind of audience could not be missed.

'ONLY' EURO

And this is "only" the European Championship. The World Cup is even bigger and politicians, Australian companies and sport fans have a duty to support Australia's journey to France in 1998.

England's passage has had a remarkable impact in the host nation.

You could be forgiven for not knowing the world's most famous tennis tournament, Wimbledon, started last week and you have to be careful not

to miss coverage of England's glamorous horse racing summer carnival or the Test cricket series between England and India.

Even mainstream news like the British beef crisis, England's role, if any, in the European Union and the IRA bombing of Manchester have all become secondary to the exploits of Seaman, Shearer and Gascoigne.

After the thrilling penalty shoot-out win in the quarter final against Spain, the England public will not settle for anything but winning the title.

England is crying out for sporting heroes and desperate to capitalise on the success of the English Premier League, which has relied largely on imports to make it one of the world's best soccer competitions.

BITTER SPAIN

For Spain the loss was especially bitter. Having faced a barrage of anti-Spanish press in the days before the match, the performance of the Spaniards was admirable in the face of a hostile 75,000 crowd.

After the match Spain's firebrand coach Javier Clemente blasted the English press and England midfielder Gascoigne for jumping around and doing up his socks during the Spanish national anthem.

Nonetheless the presence of the host nation in the closing stages of the event has ensured, as far as England's concerned, nothing matters this June except Euro 96.

ITALIAN REFEREE IN EURO 96 FINAL

Italian referee Pierluigi Pairetto was the man in the middle for the European Championship Final.

Hungarian Sandor Puhl took charge of England's semi-final clash with Germany at Wembley on Wednesday night.

Scotland's Les Mottram officiated in the other last four tie, between France and the

Czech Republic, at Old Trafford, Manchester.

His final appointment completes a hat-trick of Wembley appearances in the last year.

Pairetto was the man charged with keeping the lid on England's potentially explosive Group A clash with Scotland. He was also in charge of England's Umbro Cup clash with Brazil last summer.

RWANDAN HOUDINIS

Five players deserted the Rwandan national team in France on the way home from a World Cup qualifying match, state-run radio reported last week.

The players' whereabouts and whether they intended to seek political asylum was not known. The French government had no immediate comment.

Gideón Rudahonga, president of the Rwandan Olympic Committee, told radio Rwanda that five players disappeared while returning from a match in Tunis.

The team had spent the night in Paris in transit to Kigali.

In a broadcast monitored by the BBC, Rudahonga said team captain Frodard Bujuakera told him of rumours that some players wanted to stay in France.

He said he notified the Rwandan ambassador to France and police, but five were still able to

slip away from the group.

"It was a very long journey home and fortunately we did not lose more players. We had already stopped at five places in difficult conditions," said Rudahonga.

"Others could have gone if we hadn't taken precautions."

The remainder of the team was taken to the airport under police escort.

Rwanda still suffers from ethnic tension following 1994 genocide of more than 500,000 people, most of them Tutsis and politically moderate Hutus.

The identity and ethnicity of the players were not specified.

The team had lost the two-game series against Tunisia, Africa's second-ranked team. The last time a Rwandan national team played in international competition was in 1986.

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Much debate about the "Golden goal" ruling being used by the governing body in the Euro Championships at present, concern is being shown for what could be considered a "lucky" goal and consternation will not be far behind when it happens.

Expect plenty of retrospective argument from coaches at this time.

This ruling does have a double edge to it: Both sides must come out and attack in the extra-time period but by the same token, one solitary mistake spells disaster.

I'm sure any team would feel more than a little upset if they've spent 90 minutes

LUCK

Indeed, the first side to score in "Golden Goal" time is deemed the winner. Although exciting and better than penalties in many eyes, an element of luck can decide what may have been an absorbing match and deprive the paying customer of some superb football.

During a cup game in England last season, the score was 3-3 at full-time but at the end of the thirty minute extra-time period the score was EIGHT-FOUR!

The match was an FA Cup 2nd replay between Endsleigh League 3rd Division side Torquay United and Second division Walsall.



Damian Mori: No need for Golden Goals if more players could score from the centre circle.

attempting to break down a side only for them to attack for the first time in the 91st minute and score.

Scorers for Torquay were: Hawthorne (36), Barrow (53), Gore (65) and Mateu (101) with Marsh (14, 93), Wilson (58), Bradley (71),

Lightbourne (96, 119), O'Conner (97) and Houghton (104), netting for Walsall.

The game would have been finished after just three minutes of extra-time and deprived the 3,230 in attendance as, had "golden goal" been operative, the supporters would have missed out on five goals, the very essence of what makes, football tick because of the degree in difficulty of scoring them.

HEARTBREAKING

That's why fans are on a high when they're scored and why widening the goals must be seen as ridiculous. Much as "Golden goal" and penalties make for good TV, it's heartbreaking for players and supporters alike when it all goes wrong.

After the highs of England beating Spain on penalties, the side lost out to Germany the same way last night and how must players like Nadal of Spain, Baggio of Italy and

merit always.

Stuart Pearce summed it up in one brief moment after missing a spot kick in the semi-final of the 90 World Cup in Italy — along with Chris Waddle — when he was so pumped up after scoring against Spain in the quarter-finals at Euro 96.

It may make for great TV but it is a lottery after all and no way to decide a match of such importance, be it a final or semi.

IDEA

However, how's this for an idea? If after the full 30 minute period of extra-time is played and the scores are still locked at nil-all, fair enough we go to penalties, no arguments. If on the other hand a team scores during this time, the FULL 30 minutes of extra-time is STILL played out for the following reasons:

1/ The team having conceded the goal know that they must then score twice to win the match or go out because they can no longer go to penalty kicks. This would force them into pushing forward and creating space in their defence which could be exploited by the opposing side.

2/ Should both teams score in extra-time (1-1, 2-2 etc) and the match remains all-square at the end of it, the team that scored FIRST would go through (a bastardisation of the "Golden Goal" ruling but gives the losing side a fighting chance at least).

3/ By adopting this format, all matches such as this would be decided on the night as required but the fans would not be short changed and neither would the competing sides.

It could lead to some frenzied attacking football in the last 30 minutes but would also negate the need for penalties unless both sides failed to score in the normal and extra-time periods.

4/ The argument of "lucky goals" winning important matches would be a thing of the past as every team knows it must fight back should they concede one and must be seen as the better option for the best sides to go through to tournament finals instead of missing out to a moment of ill-fortune.

I'd like to hear your comments on this, either for or against, but please send them to the PO Box number at the top of the page and not the editorial address as it wastes time. Thank-you.

Southgate of England be feeling now?

It is an unfair lottery system without the best sides going through on

Top personalities at Blacktown next week

How many of you would like to receive an all expenses paid scholarship to a top European football club? The answer is most of you no doubt and now you have the chance to do just that.

Soccer Coaching International is giving this opportunity to at least one player per year who is judged as the best member of their coaching clinics

left).

Although not going long, Soccer Coaching International clinics have proven very popular in Australia, and not just NSW. Indeed, every state has its own clinics and the next one is in South Australia and details there are from "Big Tam Lamont" — (08) 322 2268 or John Vander Veen — 015 977 022.

The ACT, Northern NSW, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia are also covered and further details at a later date or on request OK.

The list of "world class" coaches and managers that

Steve Harkness, Doug Hodgson, Geoff Hurst, Frank Lampard, Stan Lazaridis, Matt Le Tissier, Rodney Marsh, Charlie Nicholas, Alan Smith, Martin Peters, Frank Worthington and Tony Yeboah to name but a few.

Why all these guys (plus many, many more too) and not too many Australians you might ask but you would be wrong. Graham Arnold, Robbie Dunn, Sean Murphy, Alan Hunter, Robbie Slater, Carl Veart and Rob Zabica will also be involved (and rumours through the grapevine suggest that Mark Bosnich may also help out although not yet gospel).

EUROPE

Members of SCI will receive two coaching clinics per year, meet and be coached by at least eight coaches, a Mitre soccer ball, Sports bag, SCI T-shirt, membership cards for discounts and a regular magazine AND not forgetting the wonderful opportunity to win a scholarship to a top European club, ALL EXPENSES PAID!

The training at each clinic will vary according to the location but will include practice, tuition, instruction and lectures along with discussion, training schedules and practice games. Members will also be split into groups according to age and ability so that instructors can tailor to individuals needs insofar as is possible.

If all of this were not enough, the guys at Soccer Coaching International will be adding to their very impressive list of coaches (not complete here by any means and no disrespect to those not mentioned) which will enhance and nurture their members needs.

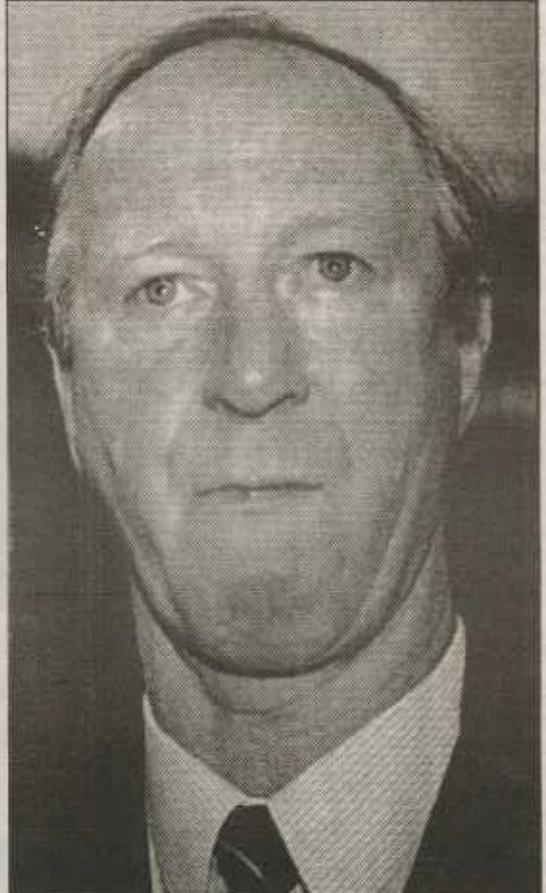
I'm normally wary of this sort of thing but I've spoken with the man behind it all many times.

He has brought sides out from the UK and in past dealings, we've never been let down and so have no doubts about this at all.

For those states not listed above, please write to the head office at: PO Box 374, North Beach, WA 6020 for more details.

Mention us or the ABSW when writing so they know you are a discerning follower and player of our great game.

...now then, where did I put those boots?



Jackie Charlton: The world football legend will be coaching in Australia.

with the skills to reach higher standards and it could be you!

On July 11 and 12 this year, Frank Farina, Francis Awartife, Matt Bingley and a certain ex-Man Utd, Everton and Northern Ireland International by the name of Norman Whiteside, will be holding some of these clinics at Blacktown City Soccer club, here in NSW.

(Full details and registration forms can be obtained by ringing Ken Schembri — (02) 899 4016 or Lawrie McKenna — 018 463 834). You can register on the days in question unless they are full (only a few places

will be taking part in these clinics is like a who's who of football. January should see Gordon Banks, Jackie Charlton and Graham Arnold holding court and in May of 1997, Jamie Redknapp, Rob Jones and Mark Wright of Liverpool should be hitting these shores but that is only the tip of the iceberg.

WHO'S WHO

Others who should be making the trip include: Ron "Mr Bojangles" Atkinson, Alan Ball, Dave Bassett, George Best, Ian Bishop, Nathan Blake, Tony Cottee, Tony Currie,

Scottish Grounds and Clubs

BY STUART JONES

ALBION ROVERS

Ground:	Cliftonhill Stadium
Address:	Main Street Coatbridge ML 3RB
Railway Station:	Coatdyke (10 mins walk)
Founded:	1882
Admitted to League:	1903
Ground Capacity:	1238
Seats:	538
Pitch Size:	110 yards by 70 yards
Largest Gate:	27,381 (1936)
Biggest Win:	12-0 vs Airdriehill Scottish Cup 3rd Sept 1887
Biggest Loss:	1-11 vs Partick Thistle League Cup 11 Aug 1993
Nickname:	"Wee Rovers"
Colours:	Yellow and Red
Honours:	League Champions 2 1933-34 Second Division 1988-89 (They were runners up in the Scottish Cup in 1920)

History: Albion Rovers started at Cowheath Park before moving to Meadow Park Whifflet in 1883. There the grandstand was blown down twice by strong winds. In April 1919 a new ground began to be built and by Christmas Eve Albion were playing their first game at Cliftonhill.

Their first opponents were St. Mirren.

In August 1920 the main stand was opened and their largest crowd saw Rangers play at Cliftonhill in 1936.

They borrowed builders hammers

from the next door construction site to increase the terraces for that game.

In October 1968 Airdrie were the visitors when Cliftonhill's flood lights were turned on for the first time.

Earlier the same year a grandstand roof had blown off the Main Stand.

After the Bradford fire in 1985 the ground capacity was reduced from 9,000 to 850 after inspection.

In 1985-86 the floodlights were so poor that Albion ground shared with Airdrie. In September 1989 Albion Rovers

paid a club record 7000 pounds for Stirling Albion's Gerry McTeague.

Their most capped player is Jock White with 1 full cap and 2 substitute appearances.

Murdy Walls played for the club 399 times in the League between 1921 and 1936. Today the club still suffers from the pull of Celtic and Rangers.

This season they finished in last place in the third division. I suppose there is only one direction to go next season from that position if you look at it positively.

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

By Stuart Jones

Despite Euro 96 there are still heaps of rumours on transfers and so called "done deals" in the UK. Starting at Chelsea where the word "Gullit" seems to make any player in Europe want to join the club. Strasbourg defender Franck Lebœuf, good friend of David Ginola, has moved to the club this week.

Meanwhile rumours are still flying of a ten million pound bid for Alan Shearer by Manchester United — must make Andy Cole feel even more wanted!

The revolving door has gone into overdrive at Everton. Out go Limpar, Horne and Ablett — in come Gary Speed and maybe Nigel Martyn.

Talking of Ablett his deal with Birmingham shows that the deal is never done until the contracts are signed. Everybody, even Joe Royle apparently, thought that Ablett would join Sheffield United where he had done so well with Michael Vonk at the heart of the defence whilst on loan there. Instead a last hour bid by Trevor Francis saw him join Birmingham.

The Brums are looking even better for a strong title challenge now. Meanwhile Middlesbrough's efforts to sign Danish striker Beck have hit a snag with the German authorities allegedly looking to block the move.

There is some paper talk of legal action along the lines of the Bosman case — one to watch. West Ham are the latest to have talks with Lee Bowyer of Charlton so rumour has it. It seems Arsenal have missed the boat on this player.

Mick Wadsworth, former coach/manager of my beloved Carlisle United, seems to be in line for the job at Scarborough.

It seems Mick's move to Norwich was not a good career move. The Norwich situation goes to show there are resurrections in football. Mike Walker leaves Norwich for Everton and less than two years later he is back, meanwhile they have gone from European competition to a mid table first division side in his absence.

Best of luck to Mr. Walker his job may be a lot tougher second time around — just ask Howard Kendall.

One of the biggest clubs in London is of course Tottenham — but it was not always that way. Of course most Spurs fans know of their success in the FA Cup in 1901 whilst still in the Southern League but before that Spurs had struggled with rejection.

On February 2 1892 there was a meeting to form a Southern League. 26 clubs attended and it was decided to vote for 12 clubs who would form the league. Spurs came last with one vote, well known teams like Crouchend and the City Ramblers beat them easily. Worse was that Woolwich Arsenal had been elected.

However this league never came into being as some clubs pulled out. In 1894 another vote on the Southern League was held and yet again Spurs were overlooked.

This time Woolwich Arsenal asked if their reserve team could play in the Southern League — a request denied. In 1896 Tottenham were rejected for the Football League so were allowed at last into the Southern League — being elected straight into the first division and in their first season there they came a creditable fourth. Three seasons later they won the Southern League title.

Interesting series of books have come out "The Complete Record" of some very famous clubs. I have just finished reading about Accrington Stanley and they have a fascinating story behind them.

The books give a players who's who, summary of each season with stats, most memorable games and a rundown of the managers. Great pictures too. Stanley's book was even more interesting as it was a complete story have left the League in the early 60s although there is a non league team of the same name now.

I visited Peel Park Accrington and you can just see a game going on in the overgrown field with the terraces full, even though there is not much left anymore. Write to UKSSD to find out what clubs are included.

You'd think they'd given up. In 1971/72 Stoke met Manchester United 7 times and West Ham 6 times! In 1933/34 Everton and Sunderland met four times in just over a month and shared 27 goals!

In 1985-86 Hearts went 32 League and Cup games undefeated. However their final two games ended in defeat which meant they were runners up in both the League and The Scottish Cup! And they thought losing this season's final was tough!

800 Game Veteran at Sutherland

BY BOB BROOKS

Eight hundred game veteran English goalkeeper, John Burridge is visiting Sydney this month.

Burridge started with his home town club Workington Town, when they were in the League, in 1968.

His potential was recognised by Blackpool as he stepped up the ladder to the first Division.

(Workington were

replaced in the Football League in 1977 by Wimbledon).

Burridge's next stop was Aston Villa. Since then he has been with Crystal Palace, Queens Park Rangers, Wolves, Sheffield United, Southampton and Newcastle.

Recently he has played for Queen of the South in Scotland as a non contract professional while coaching the goalkeepers at Newcastle United.

He is a non smoker and

has the occasional beer. His fitness level is remarkable and his routine of pre-match warm up has to be seen to be believed.

Burridge is an object lesson in himself, on how to reach the top of the profession and to stay there.

As part of the Sutherland Shire Sharks fundraising John Burridge will be the special guest speaker at a dinner on Wednesday July 17 at 7 for 7.30 in the Miranda RSL.

On Friday July 19 this

survivor will be the after lunch speaker again at Miranda RSL.

Cost for Wednesday evening is \$45 a head which includes three course dinner and drinks. On Friday night \$50 buys you dinner with drinks.

Bookings can be made for both events by calling Miranda RSL, Kingsway on (02) 525 0844 or Richard May on 015 921 740. Richard is President of Sutherland Soccer Club.

Soccer Camps International off and running

BY BOB BROOKS

Elsewhere in this week's ABSW you will read about SCI kicking off in Blacktown, NSW.

In addition in South Australia at the Birkalla Soccer Club on Monday July 8, Norman Whiteside will make his initial appearance in the Great South Land.

Record breaking Adelaide City striker, Damian Mori joins his illustrious team mate, Alex Tobin at this same coaching enterprise.

Announcement of the SCI concept was greeted with extreme scepticism by many in the Soccer fraternity.

The organisation is now starting to deliver and should go from strength to strength.

It is planned that Rodney Marsh and George Best will be in Australia for SCI around autumn next year.

Reflecting on Whiteside, who is still only 31, he played 208 games for Manchester United from the age of 17. He holds two FA

Cup Winners medals.

Whiteside is still the youngest player to appear at the World Cup Finals for his

country, Northern Ireland.

He was 17 years 41 days old on June 17, 1982 when he made his international

debut.

His career was ended by injury when still in his early 20s.



Alex Tobin: Will be coaching at the Birkalla Soccer Club.



Sukur uses car as weapon

Turkish prosecutors want to speak to international soccer striker Hakan Sukur after he allegedly beat up and drove his car into teenagers who criticised his lacklustre performance at the Euro 96 finals.

"There was a beating incident, the kids filed a complaint, and we are now looking for him to get a statement," an official from the chief prosecutor's office in the town of Adapazari, near Istanbul, said last week.

He gave no further details, but Turkish newspapers said Sukur attacked the youths, hitting them with a baton he kept in his car, after they criticised Turkey's goalless exit from the tournament in England.

Sukur, who played for



Hakan Sukur: Showed how Turks deal with critics.

Czechs arrive among Euro giants

The Czech Republic, which has spent most of its post-Communist life trying to prove it belongs in Europe, woke up last week content that at least it had arrived in the hallowed halls of European soccer.

As major conferences discussed the country's future in the EU and NATO, Czech dailies drowned those stories beneath a deluge of praise for their team's European championship quarter-final victory over Portugal.

"National Team in the Company of Football Giants", bannered the daily Mlada Fronta Dnes, picking apart every detail of Karel Poborsky's "Devilish Goal" - a lob over goalkeeper Vitor Baia which earned the Czechs a semi-final meeting with France.

"Super - 1-0" screamed the Prague tabloid Blesk in huge block letters, calling Poborsky the hero for allowing the Czechs to continue on their crusade for Europe's holy grail.

Blesk said "the unbelievable success" of the side put the Czechs "among



Dusan Uhrin: Czech coach.

the four best teams on the old continent".

Czech prime minister Vaclav Klaus has spent the past four years trying to convince European leaders that his country of 10.4 million belonged in any advanced organisation the continent had to offer.

The country's economic and democratic reforms have made it the darling of investment bankers and diplomats and put it at the

head of the line in the EU's and NATO's waiting rooms.

But what could be as symbolic as taking Europe's most coveted trophy away from Europe's three largest political powers?

"I've been getting calls from brokers in London, wishing us well and saying, 'See you in the finals', said Prague foreign exchange dealer Oto Otepka.

In the small hours of the morning hundreds of fans mingled with tourists in Prague's historic Wenceslas Square yelling, "If you're not jumping, you're not Czech."

Twenty years have passed since then-communist Czechoslovakia — the country split into separate Czech and Slovak parts in 1993 — won the European title in Yugoslavia.

But to many here, winning Euro 96 — still a tall order according to bookmakers — would bring a different kind of satisfaction to the freshly capitalist, democratic, and independent Czech Republic.

"Maybe this will help the image of Czech goods abroad," Otepka said.

To marry his love, player must prove himself

Vladimir Smicer had to use his soccer skills to convince his future father-in-law he was worthy of marrying his daughter.

The Czech forward's famous last-minute goal that sent the Czech Republic into the Euro 96 quarter-finals, jeopardised his own wedding day.

Smicer's would-be father-in-law, Ladislav Vizek, was part of Czechoslovakia's European Championship team which came third in Italy in 1980 and the two have long been involved in an "anything you can do I can do better" contest as Smicer chased the hand of Pavlina.

First he had to beat his future father-in-law in a dribbling slalom, which he managed two years ago.

Then he had to win the domestic title,

which he did this year with Slavia Prague. Then he had to make the national team.

Having accomplished all that, permission was granted and date set.

But if the Czechs continue their march through the tournament and reach the June 30 final, the planned June 28 wedding will have to be postponed.

"It looks like he does not want her," said Vizek who co-commented the match for Czech television.

"It's going to cost him a lot of money for all the beers he will have to buy explaining how and why he scored that goal," said Vizek who owns a popular Prague beerhall called Kozlova.

There simply was no choice, said Smicer.

"I couldn't do anything else but score with such a perfect pass."

DIARY DAY 14

BY ROY HAY IN ENGLAND

(Note: Diary Days have been left out due to lack of room)

Friday is also a rest day, but it brings good news when I find I have been allocated tickets for France versus the Netherlands at Anfield and Germany against Croatia at Old Trafford at the weekend.

After looking at doing the

journey by train I eventually decide to drive and stay overnight in Liverpool.

This will give me a chance to visit the last two venues for Euro 96. I had originally applied for Group C matches at these grounds, but without success, now I get a chance to see quarter-finals at both.

The English press, or at least the tabloids, are whipping up a very nasty anti-Spanish xenophobia, with

reference to notorious matches against Argentina in 1966 and 1986, which have only the language link with Spain.

The defender Nadal is being pilloried as the dark force in Spanish football, and all the moderation of Terry Venables and his squad is going for nothing.

The Guardian diary claims to have the inside story of the famous flight from Hong Kong.

According to it, Denis Wise, who is about five foot two inches tall, was rather overcome by alcohol and tiredness, so the players put him in one of the overhead lockers.

When he awoke, he fought his way out, crashing down on the bodies below and breaking the television set in the process. True or an airborne myth? The Guardian is hedging its bets.

Even their best efforts could not lift the team to victory, though the referee chose to take the penalties at the other end, perhaps suspecting that taking kicks into that sea of orange opposite the Kop would be too intimidating. Outside the ground a Dutch group were singing "You'll never walk alone."

I head back to the hotel, write my reports, and thanks to Tracy Seath of the Packet Steamer motel I am able to send them from the office, which avoids a trip back down to the media centre at Anfield.

This is just one of the many examples of kindness and assistance I find in Liverpool.

undoing of his team, which badly missed Kostadinov in the final, and got very little from Penev, the coach's nephew.

Rumeh was pretty scathing about the failure to substitute him in the final game.

Old Trafford is well below capacity for the Germany-Croatia game. Indeed despite the last minute rush for tickets for games, particularly those involving England, the attendance will be below the 90 per cent which Glenn Kirton claimed on the basis of ticket sales prior to the competition.

He thought that the later games would be sell-outs and that total attendance would get up to around 95 per cent. In fact it is likely to be 88 per cent or less.

The game itself is patchy with some great individual moments from Sammer, Asanovic, Suker and Elts, but Germany seems to win with something to spare.

I wonder whether the Croatian players were resigned to losing this one?

The sending off of Stimac just after the equaliser, was a cruel, but self-inflicted blow, as was Jerkan's hand ball.

After the game I write my reports, watch Portugal go down to Poborsky's brilliant goal, then drive back to Newport Pagnell. The service area at Keele is closed because the fire alarm has gone off, there is a delay between Junctions 10 and 8.

Is it significant that the most regular example of gridlock in the UK happens right in front of the RAC's command centre on the M6?

Even so I am home before 11.30pm and do a slot for Neil Mitchell before bed. I do not know what is worse in England this week.

The xenophobia whipped up against the Spaniards, and threatened for the Germans, or the puns by the media.

DIARY DAY 15

I leave Newport Pagnell about 10.30 am and drive to Liverpool to a hotel just at the end of the M57 motorway about seven kilometres north of Anfield.

The journey is fairly smooth but there are huge tailbacks on the M6 going south. Luckily I am going the other way.

After going a couple of times round the roundabout I find the entrance to the hotel, dump my gear, have lunch and set off down the A59.

Some enterprising young lads seem to have taken over bits of spare ground around Anfield as parking areas and mugs like me help them on their way to their first fortune, or perhaps it is all run by some Mr Big who rakes off the profits?

At the media centre I met Keith Cooper from FIFA, who was probably responsible for my eventual accreditation. He is off to Atlanta for the Olympics once this is over.

He thought Spain had

much more of the play, but admired the English resilience. The crowd at Anfield had a narrow majority of Dutch supporters, large numbers of English fans, who made their presence felt in the aftermath of the penalty shoot-out and far fewer French than I expected.

The Dutch band, "half a pint of Lager" by name, kept the fans going, and they seemed to be in better singing voice than for the Scotland game.

DIARY DAY 16



Old Trafford when empty. Has been well below capacity for games.

Voted the best player in the German team in USA 94, according to Alan Hansen, former Liverpool and Scotland sweeper and now BBC TV pundit, Elts has not made a pass in three games, but has put in a thousand defensive tackles. Beckenbauer agrees on his value.

Parking in Manchester turns out to be cheaper than Liverpool and I walked through the redevelopment of Trafford Park down by the ship canal, which is one of the pieces of industrial wasteland being recovered.

Quite deliberately I avoid the central area of the city on this trip, which was devastated by the IRA bomb last week.

At the media centre I run into my old friend Rumen Paytashev from Bulgaria, who is covering the whole of the

tournament, not just the national team.

He feels Bulgaria had done reasonably well in historical context.

This is the first time it has won a match in a European championship finals series, and he says the failure to hold the lead against Spain in the opening match was critical.

Spain had shown little in that match. I point out that Spain was very strong, especially in the latter stages of every game.

He says that Stoichkov and the others were sure they had qualified before the final match with France. After the victory over Romania Stoichkov said, "What problem for Bulgaria? It is now a problem for France and Spain."

This hubris was to be the

UK NEWS & EURO 96

French beef to England

Chelsea's Ruud Gullit made another audacious soccer signing last week, snapping up French international defender Frank Leboeuf from Racing Club Strasbourg for a Chelsea club record \$A4.90 million.

Leboeuf, currently in England with France's European Championship squad, signed a four-year contract with the premier league side.

"I am very happy," he said. "When I knew Ruud Gullit wanted me at Chelsea I could not wait to sign. I'm looking forward to meeting my new teammates and the Chelsea fans."

The 28-year-old, capped 14 times for France, is Gullit's second big signing since he took over as player-manager at Stamford Bridge from future England boss Glen Hoddle.

Last month the Dutchman enticed Italian striker Gianluca Vialli to Chelsea from European Cup holder Juventus.



Frank Leboeuf: Second foreign player at Stamford Bridge.

Punter on incredible run

A mystery British gambler with a remarkable ability to pick sporting winners stood to win \$A394,415 if Germany won the European Championship.

Bookmakers William Hill said today the punter, whose identity they do not know, had placed a \$A240 "accumulator" bet in April with nine sporting selections.

He picked Manchester United to win the English Premier League and Glasgow

Rangers to win the Scottish title.

He picked the winners of three other English divisions, the winner of Britain's rugby league cup competition and the winners of the 1,000 and 2,000 Guineas horse racing classics.

"It's an incredible strike rate which means that he effectively has over \$A65,000 running on to Germany to win the tournament," William Hill said.

"Lion Kings" thundered the tabloid Sun, which only two weeks ago savaged the same players for being louts after they were photographed drinking heavily in a Hong Kong night club.

"This tournament... gave England back their pride and put us back at the top of the world where we should be," it said.

"We'll all need a few days to get over last night's agony. But when we do, we should hold our heads high."

Many newspapers featured pictures of coach Terry Venables comforting defender Gareth Southgate,

whose spot kick was saved by Koepke to give Germany a 6-5 victory on penalties after the most enthralling game of the tournament and ended 1-1 after extra-time.

"Tears of our heroes," said the Daily Mirror. "Penalty breaks all our hearts," commiserated the Daily Mail.

"No soccer match ever previously played in this country has generated such an electric surge of patriotism throughout the land or evoked such a raging passion within the spiritual home of the oldest game," it said.

"Fritz a knockout!" exclaimed the Daily Star. "I kicked every ball. I even thought about kicking a German reporter sitting next to me."

"The tension was truly awful," wrote one of the tabloid's reporters.

"There was just one consolation. For the last

three weeks English soccer has put a smile on our faces. It's cheered up the whole country."

The Daily Express said that while the tournament had never been likely to reverse the country's long sporting decline, it had given great pleasure to millions.

"It reminded us of the ties that bind us as a people and made many of us understand what kind of country this could be, if only we tried a little harder," said the paper.

The Guardian broadsheet devoted much of its front page to a photograph of Southgate, saying he and the other English players had carved himself a place in history.

"They will be remembered now among the gloriously vanquished which, in a nation which traditionally distrusts success, can still be an honoured position," it said.

GASCOIGNE ATTRACTS BOOKIES

British bookmaker William Hill last week laid fresh odds on Paul Gascoigne's marriage which took place yesterday (Monday).

Hills are offering 150-1 that his wife Sheryl will give birth to twins named Gareth (after semi-final penalty shoot-out miser Gareth Southgate) and Terry (outgoing England coach Terry Venables) before their first anniversary.

Other odds on Gascoigne's life are: 14-1 that Gazza wins the BBC TV Sports Personality of the Year award,

33-1 that he gives up football to become a house husband,

100-1 that he is knighted in the New Year's Honours List,

50-1 that he and Sheryl are still together to celebrate their Golden Anniversary.



Gazza & Sheryl tied the knot today.

Klinsmann praises Venables

ace German striker Jurgen Klinsmann urged English soccer to realise the debt it owes Terry Venables and forecast an even brighter new dawn under Glenn Hoddle.

The injured former Tottenham striker was as anxious as any Wembley spectator during the unbearable tension of Wednesday's Euro 96 semi-final showdown.

While the 31-year-old was delighted that Germany had emerged triumphant from a night that swayed this way and then that in tantalising and mesmeric fashion, he was quick to pay tribute to the work Venables has done.

And, as Venables officially stepped down from the hottest seat in the game to allow Hoddle to begin his plans for reaching the 1998 World Cup finals, Klinsmann said that his influence had been profound.

"It was depressing for England when they didn't qualify for the World Cup in 1994," recalled the Bayern Munich striker.

"They had a tough group with Holland and Norway, and that sort of thing can happen."

"I think the quality of English football was always there, that it's always been among the best in Europe and the world."

"But the main thing is that England have

proved that in this tournament. They have played wonderful attacking football, and it was just so very close."

"England were very organised and looked like a top side, with everybody running his backside off for everybody else. That's a good sign for the future."

Klinsmann walked away from Wembley clutching the shirt of former Spurs team-mate Teddy Sheringham, and was confident in his assertion that his personal respect for the English game would be shared across the continent.

"As far as I'm concerned, it had the respect of Europe before this tournament," said Klinsmann.

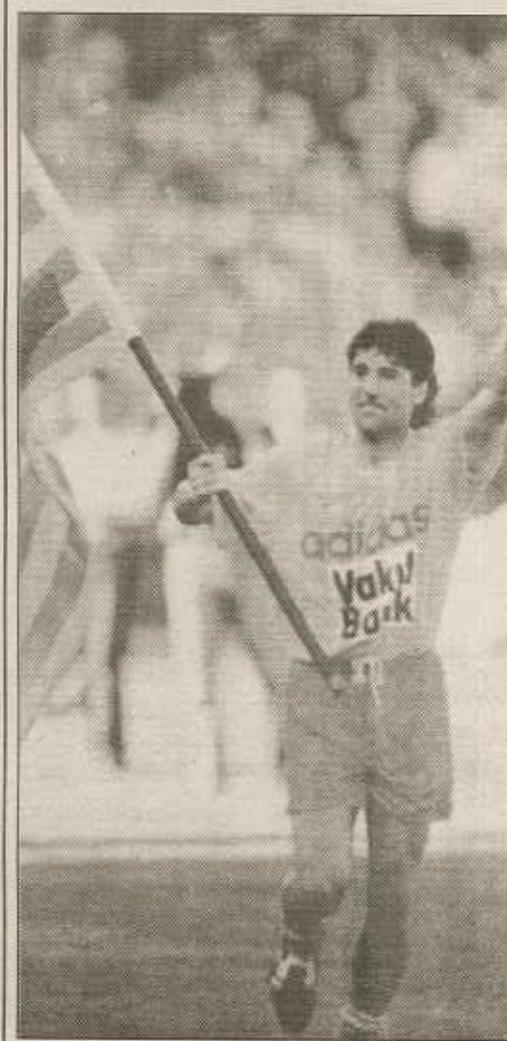
"Of course, there was that big disappointment because of the World Cup, but the respect was always there and people on the continent have always had that whenever they talk about English football."

"That's why nobody was that surprised at how good England were. I think all the managers in the tournament thought they would be one of the favourites, which shows that respect."

SAUNDERS BOUND FOR FOREST

Welsh international striker Dean Saunders is poised to join English premier league club Nottingham Forest for \$A2.94 million from Turkish club Galatasaray.

"Everything has now been agreed between Galatasaray, Dean and ourselves and it is just a question of the player coming to Nottingham to complete the formalities," Forest chairman Fred Reacher said last week.



Dean Saunders: Set to join the former European Champions.

George Graham free to resume his career

automatically end with the ban.

"I can't wait to get back into a job but I will have to be patient," he said.

"Sadly, the only reason you get a job in this game is when somebody else loses it."

"But whatever happens now I am not going to settle for joining just any club. It has got to be one that has big ambitions, whether it is in England or abroad."



Former Arsenal boss, George Graham, kicked out of soccer a year ago over "kickbacks" from transfer deals, is free to manage again from June 30.

Graham, who in nine years at Highbury took Arsenal to six major trophies including the European Cup Winners' Cup, accepts his exile from football will not



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BACK ROW: Robbie O'Shea, Jim Aschner, Kirk Westwood, Christian Phillips.
MIDDLE ROW: Martin Kovac, Shane Clinch, Tony Cabassi, David Thomas, Dean Kilover, Scott Henderson, Peter Terry (Goalie).
FRONT ROW: Grant Bard, Andrew Dowling, Steffan Jurd, Tony Brandeman, Scott Preston, Greg Lerond, Paul Donnelly.